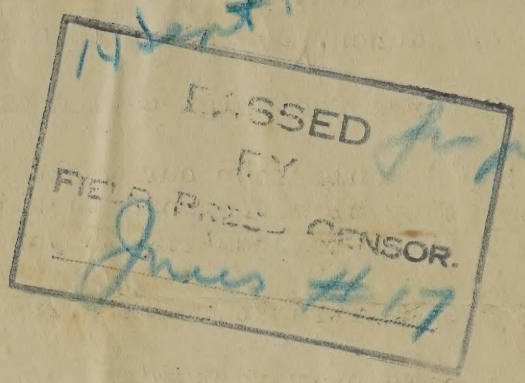
CBS Hottelet 14 September 1944

This is Richard C. Hottelet broadcasting from Germany -- we are in a United States Army signal corps transmitter just across the German border south of Aachen. (WE'RE INSIDE THE SIEGFRIED LINE.) Behind us is a twenty foot line of concrete mounds two and three feet high called dragons' teeth --- obstacles that the Germans hoped would keep our tanks and our trucks from getting across after they blew the road to smithereens. But, (OUR ENG. HAVE GONE TO WORK) As I sit here speaking to you I can hear the rumble of our heavy trucks and halftracks rolling (THROUGH THE DRAGONS TEETH) into Germany. The tanks are already across -- they came over yesterday, and cleaned out the pillboxes that is -they were good pillboxxs that cover the road. They're good pillboxes, well sited and well hidden. They held infantry and machine guns, and were designed to hold our demolition engineers off the obstacles, while artillery farther back came down on us. Neither happened. The tanks got across even before the engineers - how, I'm not saying. Four tanks and two tank destroyers lined up on a hill, loosed off at one of the bunkers and blew its armored top off. That seemed to persuade the crews of the remaining ones to take to the woods. I've just been inside (ONE PILLBOX. ANOTHER.) - it looks as if the men had just been asked to step outside for a minute. Shoeshining kit is still on one chair, blankets on the (BUNKS.) Our G I's tell me that the electric light was still burning (AND MACHINEGUNS STILL LOADED) when they got into another one.

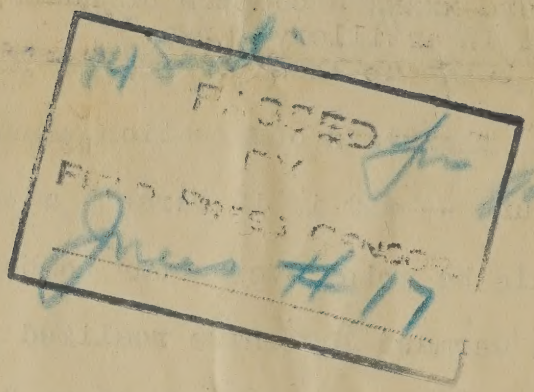
By now our infantry is a good bit up this road, deeper in the Reich. They've broken in to the Siegfried Line, but (THEY'RE) certainly not through it. I came down this same road myself with the German army in 1940, and there are still plenty of fortifications left in front of us. The question is whether the Germans are going to hold them. They'll have to hold them better than they did these border bunkers if


14 Sept
PASSED
BY
FIELD PRESS CENSOR.
Jones #17

they want to hold us up. Not half an hour ago I spoke to a German prisoner who had just been captured and he said that the morale in the German army was sour indeed, and he had no reason to believe that opposition would be much severer farther back. --- One interesting thing about this sector is that - just like the portion of the Siegfried line I visited yesterday - the Germans are hardly firing any artillery. We've been here a couple of hours, and not a German shell has come over, and we're well in artillery range. The bangs up ahead of us, and the shells whishing over us are all ours. -- The observation planes we saw circling overhead earlier were ours -- and if it weren't a terrible, drizzly, cloudy day the bombers would be going over - our bombers.

The Germans must have realized their weakness - beacuse it looks as if they had tried to remedy it by digging the additional antitank ditches that slope up the hill to our left. They probably brought in the Hitler Youth to help dig - the way they did EAST OF EUPEN AND on the eastern front -- but it didn't help.

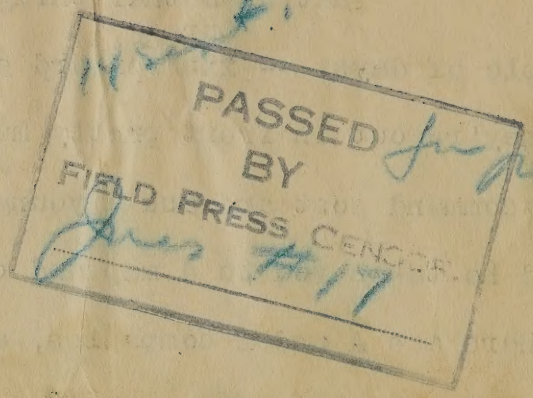
This doesn't mean that everything from now on is clear sailing. Even here we're getting into difficult country -- it's the socalled Eifel country, more or less a continuation of the Belgian Ardennes // it's rolling country with moderately high hills. And these hills are mostly thickly wooded. They're impassable for armor and they give excellent cover for German troops observing and firing into the occasional smooth meadows that drape around the pine forest. -- Heavy equipment has to stick to the road pretty much in this kind of country - and it's a job for the infantry to keep up and protect it from ambush.


PASSED
BY
FIELD CENSOR CONGO
#17

That's another thing I've noticed up at the front the last couple of days. -- Our forward elements push on and don't seem to mind if they're out in front pretty much by themselves. -- You go into a regimental command post and ask a young major what the situation is up ahead, and he takes you to a map and calmly explains that those two circles up there are A and B companies, and that the woods around and behin them are probably crawling with Jerries. He doesn't sound at all worried. The last couple of days I've gone scores of miles up to the front through hedged fields and thickly wooded country - perfect for ambushes. Driving along without weapons in the little jeep you keep wondering whether you're crazy to be there, with the woods not cleaned out. In Normandie there seemed to be snipers taking potshots at you out of every hedge and empty building. Here -- and I'm keeping my fingers, and my toes crossed, we haven't been shot at once. The major said the Germans prefer to give up.

That's the picture in this tiny sector -- and I want to say that if it weren't for First Lieutenant James Rugg of Redondo Beach, California who set up this signal corps transmitter, you wouldn't have heard this first broadcast from German soil.

This is Richard C. Hottelet with the First United States Army in Germany returning you now to CBS in New York.


PASSED
BY
FIELD PRESS CENSOR.
#17

14 september 1944

VIA PRESS WIRELESS

PRESS COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM NEWYORK

140315 understand ~~2245~~ 2246 broadcast unreceived stop have despatched it viamorse as stood stop baylor performing 1200 spot 14 september

richard hottelet

14 September 1944

VIA PRESS WIRELESS

PRESS COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM NEW YORK

140315 undersigned 3845 3246 broadcast unreceived stop have

despatched it yesmorse as stood stop Taylor petitioning 1200

spot 14 September

Richard Hottelet

VIA PRESS WIRELESS

PRESS COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM NEW YORK

140140 cumunistates first army germeny stop unistates soldiers now pouring across german frontier being received cummixed feelings ~~xix~~ viagermpopulation stop troops crossing luxembourg entered towns where old men shook fists themward women wept comma other towns where people threw money at them stop eye went across belgian border with armored troops into town roetgen repeat roetgen and reception generally friendly stop in all cases dash and this certainly not unimportant undash children waved at unistatesers para roetgen prosperous little town 2500 sprawling over many acres ground cumwellkept brick houses gardens treelined streets like prosperous section/unistates middletown stop day previous we been ~~xxxx~~ eupen where inhabitants been undemonstrative to point of hostility dash and afraid of us comma germans comma and everything ~~xx~~ stop eye expected same roetgen comma but not so para crossing railroad tracks inrolling along bahnhofstrasse into town first thing eye saw was two buxom grinning women stop eye asked them how they feltxxxxx etwhat they doing stop they said felt fine and just been up line having look at unistates soldiers dash and they obviously satisfied cumwhat saw stop all through belgium france liberated townsfolk ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ outhung tricolors starstripes union jacks stop roetgen people seemed feel would extremely gauche outhang swastika comma they had no british american flags dash but felt they should outhang something comma so outhung white flags stop outhung napkins comma pillowcases comma large handkerchiefs dash mainly cumneatly pressed square folds still in them para ~~as we downdrove streets~~ more

H. Hollet

R. D. H. L.

VIA PRESS WIRELESS

PRESS COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM NEW YORK

140145 add cumunistates first army germany para as we downdrove streets people in little knots or standing windows waved shyly or just looked stop children all waved yelled stop some grownups gave us apples pears plums para we had time to spare so circulated village asked people how felt stop dominant reaction was uncertainty stop nazis all fled taking total civil administration stop had encouraged people flee comma telling them americans would leave no stone on other comma would destroy germany stop some did evacuate east rhine but xxxxx remaining ones say they glad they stayed because they not believed americans would commit atrocities dash people had come eastward from eupen malmedy saying our troops behaving very well stop also leaflets been dropped urging people stay put stop townsfolk worried about germartillery planes and not xxxxxxx completely sure german troops wont make effort return to punish anyone who shown self disloyal nazisward xxxx para in general people spoke of nazis as if they were different race dash showing considerable antagonism to party hacks stop eye stopped spoke parish priest who had served his time in gestapo jail stop he said quote we really should feel ashamed that we should have to wait prooutsiders come in liberate us nazi gang stop it is sad commentary on powerlessness of decent forces inside germany unquote stop one thing priest said xxx struck me as fundamental stop talking of president roosevelts four freedoms he quote your president good man comma and eye wonder if he really knew how meaningful his words freedom from fear are stop twill mean eye no longer forced watch every word eye say expulpit stop twill mean eye will able once more preach word god without worrying about secret police unquote more

VIA PRESS WIRELESS

PRESS COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM NEW YORK

140215 third cumunistates first army germany stop we indeed bringing freedom into germany stop already civil affairs officers uphanging posters containing proclamation viaeisenhower in his capacity ~~xx~~ allied commander and military governor of areas british etunistates troops occupy stop proclamation says we come as conquerors but not as oppressors comma and that we intend extirpate nazism and all attendant cruelty injustice stop other posters ~~xxx~~ publish laws/by allied military government repeat laws revoking all ~~xxxxxx~~ infamous nazi laws suchs racial laws comma and laws most that suspended civil rights stop military government also decreees dissolution all nazi organizations ~~x~~/listing over thirty including gestapo dash sa ss stop ~~xx~~ military government taking care we not enter germany as but trusting suckers stop germpeople warned any action antius suchs attacks against military personnel or communications etcetera will severely ~~xxxxxxx~~ punished para note colon presume text all proclamations ordinances laws ~~xxxx~~ already made available youward exwashington or london stop if not inform me and will send end note para our civil affairs will faced considerable problems however stop must supply entire civil administration comma because safe bet nazis will always flee stop roetgen prosperous little community ~~xxx~~ and people well ~~xx~~ dressed but even so need food stop urban centers will need food desperately stop rate of exchange mark must still fixed stop evacuees exbombed areas comma whereof numerous in roetgen comma must repatriated stop entire farreaching question schools universities must given quick solution ~~xxxxxx~~ various forces inside germany seize opportunity impose own solutions more before richard hottelet

VIA PRESS WIRELESS

PRESS COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM NEW YORK

140245 fourth cumunistates first army germany para physical condition roetgenites satisfactory stop but they practically without reserves stop todt organization and hitler youths who drafted prodigging emplacements ditches cleaned out all stores drank allw beer stop nothing left except fruit poultry rabbits inhabitants own para roetgen not best example of/problems we will face as penetrate deeper germany except insofar as much complexer illustrates great need for forceful constructive action our part

enditem richard hottelet

CBS Hottelet 0046 14 September 1944

Forces of General Hodges' First American Army over a front of about fifty miles. have broken into the Siegfried Line at several points. Progress is mainly slow because of enemy road blocks and barriers. ARE SLOWING US DOWN. AND IN PLACES German resistance is stiff -- but nowhere near as tough as it could be, and it hasn't stopped us. It looks more and more as if the enemy were concentrating his main defence on the Rhine river.

A couple of us went up to the front WITH AN ARMORED COLUMN three kilometers north of the German town of Roetgen. What we saw there was, in miniature, just about what's going on everywhere on the front. An armored formation had pushed along the narrow gravel road leading north out of the town. The road ran along the side of a thickly wooded hill, and you could get off it only at a few points. The first barrier OF THE SIEGFRIED LINE was right outside the town -- steel rails stretched across the road and a deep crater where a culvert had been BLASTED - in a small clearing on either side were rows of concrete mounds called dragons teeth, good tank obstacles. Ahead and to the side were two strong pillboxes. -- There should have been antitank guns in them but there weren't, there were ONLY infantrymen with machineguns who piled out when our tank 75's opened up. Our engineers blew aside the steel bars, filled in the crater, ignored the dragon's teeth and the column rolled on. It rolled on along the narrow gravel road. They couldn't get off to maneuver. Thick woods and a steep slope made it impossible to get off the road -- they met another pillbox, which was not manned, covering the road from both directions.

They advanced three kilometers up that road against only scattered infantry fire - no artillery at all.

We caught up with the column at the edge of an open field, where they'd met their first fire. Four of our tanks and a halftrack had been hit and were burning fiercely - wounded were being taken out and their ammunition was exploding. A couple of hundred yards over to the left a bit was the German panther tank that had done the damage. We had just knocked it out. As wewathced from the edge of the wood the Panther opened up with machine gun fire that put our noses in the dirt. One of our tank destroyers moved out a bit, fired one shot, and the Panther was dead for good. The destroyer lumberedback into position and then swung its turret slightly right - we looked and saw a huge German self-propelled gun creep out from behind a barn. The destroyer fired another shot, the German burst into flames.

Meanwhile our own artillery had been pounding away at woods and strongpoints a couple of hundred yards ahead. Still no sign of enemy artillery. (I asked a Colonel how come. He said they probably didn't have it. I asked - why's that. He said the enemy had moved a lot of guns out of the Siegfried Line to the Atlantic wall. If those defenses had been properly manned and organized we'd have been held there for a week. -- And it was important for the enemy that we should be, because moving north along that road we were cutting off a whole segme of other defenses just to the west. -- Ten minutes later our tanks and infantry went forward across the field. We climbed back into our jeep and started back with five prisoners perched on the hood and trailer. All the way back one of them kept trying to convince me that a new secret weapon would still win the war for Germany.

CBS Hottelet 0045 13 September 1944

General Lightning Joe Collins tonight has two different units of his Seventh Corps across the German border tonight. We can't say where they are, because the Germans quite possibly don't know ---/intensive bombing along this area of the Siegfried Line today must have fouled up their communications. ~~At any rate we're not very deep inside Germany. We certainly haven't cut the Siegfried Line. That wasn't the purpose of~~ today's operation, which was a reconnaissance in force. The tanks and halftracks that went out over various roads toward Germany ~~this morning~~ were quite prepared to turn back -- ~~today's job was~~ to feel out the best place to land the sunday punch. ~~The sunday punch is still to come.~~

But, though we only crossed the 1939 German border today, we've been inside Hitler's Greater Germany for more than a day. And already there are some lessons we can learn about the reception we're going to get in Germany proper. So far in France and Belgium Americans were cheered and kissed and fed whenever they appeared. But in the town of Eupen that we took yesterday it's a somewhat different story. Dave Baylor of WGAR and Bob Casey of the Chicago Daily News went in there today. The town seemed dead - no flags, no cheers, no welcome. The people just stood dumbly and looked at us. They seemed frightened. Nine tenths of the population are German. The ones that remained were not Nazis - the party people had all fled last week. But even so the people remaining were frightened, ~~and beware of themselves~~ - the enemy was still dropping shells into the town, and the people weren't sure if he'd be coming back or not. - Apart from this the town is short of

food, and the Nazis have carried off the whole civil administration, lock stock and barrel. --- Now the town of Eupen is part of Belgium, and we can turn its comparatively simple problems over to the Belgian authorities. Once we get inside Germany we are going to have to supply the government and administration -- and there are going to be much tougher probelms.

But even tonight, when we're across the German border, the men who're going to have to supply the civil government have not yet received the broad policy directives on how to govern the country. Simple questions such asthe rate of exchange of the mark, and the kind of flag the Germans carry -- and these questions are very important -- don't seem to have been decided yet.

Our soldiers are doing wonders to win the war militarily -- it's only just that our policy makers ensure that the occupation of Germany -- the purpose of this war -- does not start in an atmosphere of political confusion.

12 September 1944
URGENT PRESS URGENT PRESS VIA PREWI
VIA SIGNAL CORPS

COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM NEW YORK

PRESREL LONDON FOR COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM LONDON
FLASH FLASH

~~xxxx

12 september 1944 URGENT PRESS URGENT PRESS

VIA PREWI
VIA SIGNAL CORPS

COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM NEW YORK

PRESREL LONDON COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM LONDON

THIRD ADD ACROSS BORDER stop germans sent few fighterbombers over yesternight early smorning but since then unsign germair opposition stop small pockets isolated germtroops behind us surrendering after sharp skirmishes stop impossible state what resistance still lies ahead stop third armored division faced by remnants second ss repeat ss panzerdiv who still tough babies comma also battlegroupx composed exelements fourteenth sixteenth panzers among others stop they may stand fight but opinion here is enemy may attempt decisive stand rhine river para technically comma if accept hitlers map comma we already inside Nazi Germany after crossing into Eupen Malmedy yesterday stop henceforth we consider selves strictly enemy territory comma take all appropriate security measures stop inside town Eupen people noticeably less friendly than Belgians we met sofar stop sixty percent seem German stop one correspondents jeep cheered comma but cheers unwere proamericans but prothree Germprisoners perched on trailer para germans evacuated entire civil administration town stop civil affairs faced cumterrific problem if this continues inside Germany because vialack civil affairs manpower we will forced rely upon local adminstrators stop Eupen being treated administratively as part Belgium para civil affairs job further complicated by non-arrival all politdirectives exwashington stop even lists prominent nazis to be arrested have not arrived xxxx enditem --richard hottelet

PRESREL LONDON

Edward R. Murrow Columbia Broadcasting System London

upto Wednesday
Have received schedule/viaCollingwood containing no spots longer than two minutes, and night spots today Tuesday only ninety seconds. [redacted] even if less frequent.) [redacted].Would prefer [redacted] longer broadcasts/ Appreciate New York's desire for First Army dateline - but [redacted] most difficult not sound like communique in such short spots. If New York sets such schedule because [redacted] afraid eye won't cover news from here, they can reassured. [redacted] Main news likely originate here for while. This not squawk, but attempt get feet groundwards. Will abide by schedule fars possible until hear differently from you, and will try send muchs possible via PREW/ [redacted]. Do you want THIS/ [redacted] duplicated to you? Will not able fill tonight's spot, hope show tomorrow night. Hope transmitter move up farther. Cheers.

Richard Hottelet

11 Sept 44

11 Sept 44

VIA PRESS WIRELESS

COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM NEW YORK

Not duplicated London stop My first week with American First Army comma Belgium is kaleidoscope impressions waving flags/cheering kissing civilians comma/streamlined powerful army comma dejected miserable germans stop Driving through Belgium up to Liege for first time the other day was quick sequence all stages liberation. In France people now rather blase about being liberated dash / flags still outbut there not much display outward enthusiasm but as crossed Belgian border and proceeded northward along Meuse valley reception grew warmer warmer stop Charleroi coal steel center appreciably bombed in spots but Germans had shot number prominent civilans so we cheered there dayslong stop as drove through towns noticed unonly also black gold red Belgian colors home made British Russian flags and stars stripes para there no end to variety American flags stop sometimes people didn't have red cloth so used pink stop most dont have foggiest notion how many stars and stripes in flag stop some have only one big star comma others have anywhere between that and sixtyfour stop some prefer gold stars stop others dont know how make five pointed stars so substityte six points stop still other dont know how make flags atall so substitute/little crosses stop one laborsaving madame made one flag stars stripes on one side and red flag on other stop lots d n't know about width stripes so make tiny red stripes on broad white or vice versa para but with all variety the sincerity unmistakeable stop driving through narrow village streets under signs stretched house houseward reading quote honneur aux allies unquote and quote glory on our great liberations un-

page two CBS Hottelet 11 September xxxx liberations unquote people acted as if really felt that way stop as tanks and trucks xxxpx halted redcheeked madames came out with hot ersatz coffee which grimacing tank crews drank despite terrible taste just to keep friendly stop papa came outx with prewar mirabelle xxxx liqueur or cognac or last bottle good wine stop heaping trays baskets apples pears handed up to men stop sometimes little boys girls dont wait for trucks jeeps to halt before offering fruit comma but throw xxxxx usward stop we sometimes suspect they combining hospitality with pleasure para and these simple things not only offerings stop yesterday saw military policeman standing on corner where he dotailed hold impor ant headquarters traffic sign stop only he not holding sign stop he holding china plate with full cooked meal including breadbutter shovelling it in briskly with fork stop little girl stood in front below him xxxxxx holding sign stop she looked tremendously proud comma he tremendously embarrassed and completely helpless stop behind him stood large forceful beaming madame obviously xxx donor para you can tell how far forward you are by length strength welcome stop when town has flags everywindow and occasional parenthesis hitler hung effigy you know there plenty americans ahead stop/its good thing know too because area between Namur Liege and eastward still sprinkled disconsolate Germans with machine guns handgrenades stop and correspondents unarmedxwith muchs puttyblower prod fense unparenthesis stop sometimes you speed along road into town and people throw open windows shout top their lungs, begin scurry around proflags, pour out streetsward and comma when you xxxx downslow turn corner kiss you hug you at danger life limb comma shake hands and hold on comma hold up

05734

xxxxx comma hold up babies prokissing stop when town looks like that you better get out and walk or better still turn back because you just liberated it yourself stop that happened us saturday just outside Liege stop we xxxxxx fled with much dignityx possible sos not disillusion townsfolk para in Namur we not particularly warmly received bacause town been bombed week or two before cumappreciable casualties stop but even there not fragment vestige illwill stop we went into Liege liberation morning and crowd went crazy lining streets kissing cheering despite occasional sharp rainsqualls stop here as elsewhere girls women try dress national colors cum red apron black skirt gold blouse xxxxx etcetera stop but we unonly on receiving end stop belgian juveniles also want something stop they already learned howl prochewing gum stop one little Liege girl/yesterday held up sign as we passed by reading quote have you any gum for me unquote stop she obviously already learned her treble unable pierce rumble tanks trucks para American troops responding this part their movement into Belgium very well stop up near Liege eye saw first GI and Belgian girl walk along sidewalk with arms around waists only hours after liberation stop and families xxxxxxxxxxxxxx dont wait long invite boys in stop but dominant impression of unistates army is one of bigleague team tremendous strength now functioning smoothly over tremendous distance x cumeach man old professional soldier. stop walking into command post in wood yesterday eye xxxxx saw men cutting hair, clothes drying on line, vehicles all neatly arranged under trees and camouflage stop eye asked how many days they been there to xxxx downsettle so completely stop eye told commmand

page four CBS Hottelet 11 September 1944 xxx told command post arrived previous afternoon stop at various headquarters eye meet officers again whom first met Louisiana maneuvers 1941 exactly three years ago stop we almost weep when remember how disorganized ineffectual army was then compared cumpowerplant today stop today there no men crouching behind broomsticks shouting bang bang xxxx at approaching tank stop today the got what need stop and you can't travel mile over good Belgian roads without thanking heaven for our tough inexhaustible supply truck drivers stop from airfields ~~not too far away from front but mainly from many many miles farther back~~ they xxx upbring thousands tons supplies army needs every day stop you get some idea quantities from fact one armored division eats seventy thousand gallons gasoline daily more para note newyork moving front ards now will send more color stuff on army and on assistance get exbelgian population tonight tomorrow stop soons get this stuff exway will try send you material shorter more frequent doses realizing indigestibility huge gobs material stop send me xxxx any requests promorse stuff viamurrow regards

richard c. hottelet

THESE SPACES FOR MESSAGE CENTER ONLY

TIME FILED	MSG CEN NO:	HOW SENT

JECOV JLG1 nl 1630 Chst

MESSAGE (SUBMIT TO MESSAGE CENTER IN DUPLICATE) PRECEDENCE

No. DATE

To DICK HOTTELET

Will you transcribe morning 1201 to 1203 also 2246 to 2247.30 Tuesday 2246 to 2247.30 wednesday 1201 to 1203 I will send list of schedule later. Are there any days you want free I will do the broadcasts to say Sunday

10 1445 Z Charles Collingwood

OFFICIAL DESIGNATION OF SENDER | TIME SIGNED

SIGNATURE AND GRADE OF WRITER

PASSED FOR PUBLICATION BY
CO
Date
Time

D.M. BAYLOR w/c PRESS SECTION. 1ST. US ARMY.
FOR BROADCAST VIA PRESS WIRELESS ON CBS SEPT 7th. 1944 12:01-12:03 GMT.

Although ~~Even~~ though the pace is ~~no accelerated~~ as it has been in the past 2 weeks, the Allied drive in France and Belgium still continues foreward.

Elements of the First U.S. Army, commanded by General Courtney Hodges have ~~xxxx

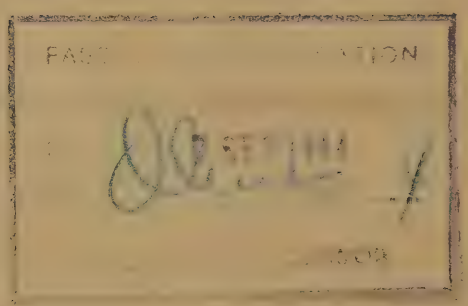
Hatfield

They're more greatly concerned with getting the war over. They haven't even become over optimistic about that happening next week or the week after.

It turned a little cold here today, and outside the window of the building we occupy there was great activity. The Germans had left a little coal in the basement, and the mayor and the French Red cross was rationing it out to the older members of the populace in the village. I asked a young woman who was helping to shovel it out how much they got. "Thirty kilos," she said. That's about sixty pounds. "How long must it last?" I asked her. "We don't know," she replied. "Until we get some more, and we don't know when that will be." It might be a pretty cold winter in France.

This is Dave Baylor with the First U.S. Army in France, returning you to the Columbia Broadcasting system in New York.

-30-



CBS Hottelet 1400 11 September 1944

this morning
~~xxxx

weather for the greatest lone plunge of all time. It's bright and sunny now, with white clouds and blue sky, and enough of a nip in the air to make you keep moving.

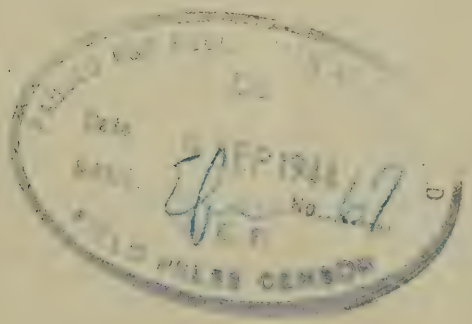
The attitude at the various headquarters is one of quiet confidence - there's none of the great tension we saw before D-Day, for instance. There's no telling yet how much of a fight the Germans will put up on their Siegfried Line; but everyone I met took the view that in the Atlantic Wall and in front of Cherbourg we've already met and crossed the best the Germans have to offer. There are vague indications, by the way, that the Germans may be feeling much the same way and be starting to pull back to the Rhine. Yesterday our planes strafed more formidable defense line of transport moving east out of Aachen.

At any rate, more preparations than only military are being made to go into Germany. The Civil Affairs people are doing their best to anticipate the probelms we'll meet. They're hampered by the complete absence of any political directives from Washington and London; so they've got to confine themselves to worrying about immediate dangers like sniping and cable cutting and other underground activity in the Reich. We don't know how much of that we'll meet, but dangerous activity against our troops will be sternly dealt with. It's refreshing to here that even if we have to be harsh, we'll be brining justice back into Germany. ~~We may be forced to take hostages, but~~ there will be no mass reprisals or any measures against women and children.

B'cast 1'30", the remainder MY

NEW LEAD CBS Hottelet 0045 10 September 1944

American patrols were reported in the town of Verviers today -- fifteen miles from the German border. This is an advance of about ten miles from Liege, which was solidly occupied yesterday. The country east of Liege was this evening being combed by American patrols. -- This movement toward Germany is not just a couple of jeeps -- I've just come back from a two day trip up in that area, and what I've seen, spells bad news for Hitler. I'm going back up in the morning and- unless something totally unforeseen happens I expect to be in Germany very soon. -- There is no sign of effective, organized opposition between us and the border./It's just scattered rearguards. It seems as if.....



(MORE)

CBS Hottelet 0045 10 September 1944

Strong forces of the American First Army are to-night within fifteen miles of the German border. The town of Verviers/ge is probably solidly in our hands -- I say probably because I left the front this afternoon before it had actually fallen. We are certainly almost twenty miles E o Lie on beyond it with reconnaissance elements. It's not too much to say that all the country east of Liege to the border was this evening being combed by American patrols. -- This movement toward Germany is not just a couple of jeeps -- I've just come back from a two day trip up in THAT area, and what I've seen spells bad news for Hitler. I'm going back up in the morning, and - unless something very unforeseen happens, I expect to be in Germany tomorrow.

The main reason for this is the absence of any appreciable organized opposition between us and the border. It's true ~~that we've met more in the past couple of days -- but the signs are~~ that the Germans intend to make their first really determined stand inside Germany on the Siegfried Line. Already there are signs that the enemy is feverishly digging trenches this side of Aachen, and trying to repair the pillboxes and fortifications. ~~that have deteriorated after~~ It won't be a walkaway for us, but was in ~~[illegible]~~ -- The Siegfried Line is not what it 1940 -- the Germans didn't figure they'd have to use it again, so they dismantled telephone wire and electric fixtures and guns and metal parts. Now they just can't get enough of these to restore full efficiency. Another thing is that the Siegfried Line was built to the standards of 1940, when a 37mm gun would stop a tank; in the days before accurate saturation bombing, and before the Nazis had to reckon with the machines

CBS Hottelet 0045 10 September 1944

Strong forces of the American First Army are to-
night within ~~fifteen~~ 21 miles ~~miles of the German border. The town of Verviers~~ almost twenty miles E o Lie
is ~~probably~~ solidly in our hands -- ~~I say probably because I left the~~
~~front this afternoon before it had actually fallen.~~ We are certainly
on beyond it with reconnaissance elements. It's not too much to say
that ~~all~~ the country east of Liege ~~to the border~~ was this evening being
combed by ~~xxxxxxxxxxx~~ American patrols. -- This movement toward Germany is not just
a couple of jeeps -- I've just come back from a two day trip up through
the whole area, and what I've seen spells bad news for Hitler. I'm
going back up ~~xxxxxxxx~~ in the morning, and - unless something very unforeseen happens,
I expect to be in Germany ~~tomorrow~~ soon.

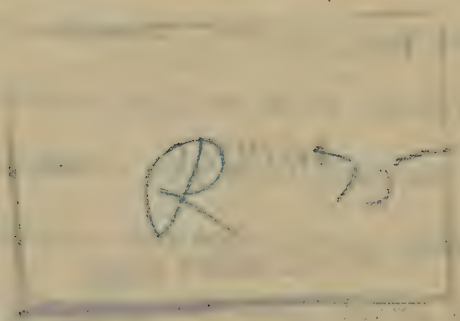
The main reason for this is the absence of any ~~xxx~~
appreciable organized opposition between us and the border. It's true
that we've met more in the past couple of days -- but the signs are
that the Germans intend to make their first really determined stand in-
side Germany on the Siegfried Line. Already there are signs that the
enemy is feverishly digging trenches this side of Aachen, and trying to
repair the pillboxes and fortifications that have deteriorated after
years of disuse. -- The Siegfried Line is not what it ~~xxxxxxx~~ was in 1940 --
the Germans never figured they'd have to use it again so soon, so they
dismantled telephone wire and electrical fixtures and guns and metal
parts. Now they just can't get enough of these to restore full efficien-
cy. Another thing is that the Siegfried Line was built to the standards
of 1940, when a 37mm gun would stop a tank; in the days before accurate
saturation bombing, and before the Nazis had to reckon with the machine

c/w New York via Paris

we're concentrating against them right now. -- General Eisenhower said the other day that a line is only as good as the men who man it. Well, this afternoon I saw a few of the soldiers that Himmler's new manpower combout had sent to the front. They were men who would not have been taken on to peel potatoes in the German Army I saw sweep through Belgium in 1940. They were all young - and had surrendered without firing a shot. One had a glass eye, another had a paralyzed left hand, a thrid had a crippled left leg. They had all been routed out of hospitals and convalescent centers by the new combout .

I couldn't help contrasting them with our own GI's. Our men have toughened a lot in these last three months. It's a good thing, too / because from now on the weather in western Europe gets worse. Already it's pretty cold, and when it rains in sharp fierce bursts, the way it did a couple of times yesterday, it gets into your clothes and makes you miserable. We drove a couple of miles through Liege with an armored point yesterday, it was raining like the devil. But there, on both sides of the tanks, leaning forward slightly into the rainy wind walked the GI's. They walked slowly, with rifles at the ready, and looking at them you thought they'd never stop. They had that grim, dogged look of the eternal infantryman -- the man who gave his arm the name "Queen of Battles".

This isn't an unpleasant time for the men, though. The country we're moving through now is very pretty, with rolling meadows and pleasant woods. It's symptomatic that even the soldiers get a chance to admire terrain as scenery. And the people have given our men a welcome that'd make anyone feel good- cheering mobs greet them everywhere, and when Madame hands the tank crew some hot ersatz coffee they drink the stuff and grin as if they enjoyed it -- and everybody's happy.



9 Sept 44

PRESREL LONDON

FOR: Edward R. Murrow, Columbia Broadcasting System

Unreceived schedule which presume enroute. Frontwarding sunday morning, hope return with bangup piece. Have lots good color and will put pen paperwards soons have some peace quiet. Will New York give me ten minutes or so on 2230 GMT or must I take full period? Give Annie love say eye writing soonest. ~~xxgxxdxx~~ Transmitter now farther forward, so travelling time downcut ~~xixhxzdx Hoxzxixx~~ and can fill more ppots. Regards.

Richard C. Hottelet

D.M. BAYLOR W/C PRESS SECTION 1ST US ARMY.
FOR BROADCAST VIA PRESS WIRELESS TO CBS SEPT. 8TH.
PAGE ONE.

10629

Most of the war news this ~~morning~~ today centers in the general area bounded on the west by the Meuse River from Liege in Belgium, down to Sedan and east to the German Belgian border. Liege has been taken by elements of General Hodges First Army, which moved into the city along the north bank of the Meuse and are pushing eastward toward the German frontier which lies only twenty one miles away.

In the Nancy and Metz, the Third Army has fought three crossings of the Moselle, and some tanks have crossed this important water barier.

The British have reached the Albert Canal in Belgium, and German troops have been brought from Holland to oppose them.

In the Liege, Givet, Sedan Area, the town of Momsee, three miles to the southeast of Liege has been reached. Further south, in the Ardannes forest area, our troops are advancing and have reached Haut Fays, 12 miles southeast of Givet and Maissin, 20 miles northeast of Sedan. The resistance is described as scattered, but there is indication that enemy mines in large numbers have been encountered. This might mean that the enemy is retreating at a slower pace, or that they have been in the areas into which we are pushing for a longer period of time. For in areas taken up to this ~~xxxxxxx~~ point, in the long sweeps which have covered a good part of the area leading to the Meuse, mine laying on the part of the retreating Whermacht has been considered as slight. ~~He had no time to~~ Now lay mines. ~~He is delaying us at every possible point, with anything at his disposal.~~

I was up in the Givet area this morning, along the Muese river, and it is a difficult and forbidding country. It is heavily

(MORE)

PASSED FOR PUBLICATION
Date 8 SEP 1944
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wooded , and the terrain is rough enough to be called mountainous. It is cut by sheer cliffs and steep rocky hillsides. The roads are narrow, and crooked, excellent for road blocks, and indeed we saw evidences of many — for he is putting off the end as long as possible. We stopped at a ponton bridge which had been erected only a few hours before by a squad of engineers. We were told that Germans, estimated to number up to a battalion, were in the high cliff like hills bordering the river, a matter of only five hundred or a thousand yards away. What is more, we were told that they had a machine gun trained on the bridge itself. The Germans had been there for two days, the young lieutenant in command of the engineers said, but hadn't fired a shot. We asked how he knew they were there. He told us that eight of their wounded had come down out of the hills, asking for food and medical care. One said he was in the infantry, one in the artillery, and another in the cavalry, indicating that there were elements of many scattered units represented.

"Why don'tthey shoot at you," we asked the lieuteant.

He shrugged his shoulders. "They don't want to fight, they only want to surrender and eat and get out of the war."

As we came back over the road we had so blithley traveled before know ing this time that there were Germans about in some numbers, we felt a little like going home through the dark alley after school, wondering whether or not the town bulley would be waiting for us around the corner. It was quite a relief to find that he wasn't.

This is Dave Baylor, with the first U.S. Army in France, returning you to ~~the Columbia broadcasting system~~ General Electric in New York.

NAZI LOSSES MAY SHORTEN WAR, SAYS GEN. BRADLEY

Tel 10/1/45

From CORNELIUS RYAN,
Daily Telegraph Special Correspondent
WITH ADVANCED H.Q., 12TH ARMY GROUP,
Tuesday.

Lt.-Gen. Bradley, breaking his silence for the first time since Rundstedt's offensive began on Dec. 16, to-day revealed that he and his staff were fully aware of the German preparations in the Cologne area before the attack, and that in leaving the Ardennes lightly held they took a calculated risk.

The whole position had been scrupulously studied by Gen. Bradley and his staff, and it was felt that the risk taken was justified because the territory contained no strategic objectives or large supply installations.

He also disclosed that Field-Marshal Montgomery's command of the First and Ninth Armies was temporary, and that they would revert to Gen. Bradley's command when direct lines of communication had been rejoined.

Events, he declared at a Conference here to-day, might prove that German losses, when the salient was eventually reduced, would materially affect their ability to resist on the Western Front.

He said: "The German attack was the direct result of pressure exerted by the American Ninth, First and Third Armies and forces of the Sixth Army Group against the weakening German defence line.

"Advances made during November and December were threatening vital German areas. It was necessary for the Germans to launch a more diversionary attack in sufficient strength to cause the Allies temporarily to stop their offensives against these vital areas and try to gain time.

ATTACK FORESEEN

"A build-up of German forces had been observed in the Cologne area for some weeks before the attack. The possibility of a German attack through the Ardennes was thoroughly studied by my Staff.

"In leaving the Ardennes line lightly held we took what is known in military terminology as a 'calculated risk' to strengthen our northern and southern drives.

"In other words, instead of employing our surplus divisions in the then quiet Ardennes, we used them to attack in other sectors.

"This technique, striking boldly while taking calculated risks, is what got us to the German border. In my opinion had we followed more cautious policies we should still be fighting west of Paris.

"We felt in the case of the Ardennes we could take this risk because this territory contained no strategic objectives or large supply installations. When Rundstedt sent his troops into action with orders to live on American dumps they found slim pickings in an empty pocket.

"Many of the prisoners we captured have been hungry. We have now captured many tanks and vehicles stalled for lack of fuel."

(Continued on P. 6, Col. 5)

JERSEY RELIE SHIP BACK

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FROM OUR OWN CORR
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8 SEP 1944
PRESS CENSOR

CBS Hottelet 2100 6 September 1944

The American First Army is still advancing--even experts said they couldn't get the supplies to keep on moving as long and as far as they have. But they did get them and they are moving.

The main advance is in Belgium - now toward the German border. First Army troops have gone across the River Meuse on a twentytwo mile front at Namur, Dinant and Givet. They've crossed their last river on the way to Germany. The only natural barrier between them and the Reich now is the Ardennes Forest -- and the Germans showed in 1940 that it isn't much of a barrier.

Behind this advancing front fighting is still going on to the west around Charleroi against isolated remnants It's hard to say where the Germans are, or in what strength, any more. Facing us now, or in pockets that we've just flowed around, are elements of every division the First Army has met in the three months since D Day. General Hodges is like a busy housewife who's been wielding the broom down a long room. He's come pretty well to the end of the room now and all that's in front of him -- from the cold viewpoint of strategic value --- all that's in front of him is rubbish, in a heap, disorganized and fit only for the military ashcan.

And down, to already the south of Mons, the General has been making a neat pile of it with a handbroom and whisking it

CBS Hottelet 2100 dbst 6 September 1944

On the American First Army front

into a dustpan. -- And if you think that's just a simple analogy, here are the cold military facts -- South of the Belgian town of Mons the First Army in two days -- between the third and the fifth of September -- took roughly 25,000 prisoners, including two Generals. And that's as much as have been taken in any two day period since June the sixth. These are Germans who had been fleeing northward from the American push, and eastward from the British threat. -- We saw some of them on the road this afternoon, moving south to a prison camp.

This bag of prisoners, big as it is, is only a part of the German forces still remaining in Belgium. The others tonight are moving eastward, back to Germany. Particularly heavy traffic has been seen today - traffic of all sorts, motor, tanks, horsedrawn. (The enemy is counting on the muggy, rainy weather to hinder our air force.) -- These elements are no longer a field army -- it looks as if Hitler is trying to get them back to provide the desperately needed garrisons for the Siegfried Line. And the Americans are pressing hard on their heels, overrunning temporary entrenchments. It's our intention not to give the enemy time to turn around and organize a fight in or out of a line. ~~Already German temporary entrenchments have been overrun.~~

Supply is going to be one of the crucial elements in this operation, ~~advancing armies eat vast quantities of gasoline and ammunition and equipment. Until we get Antwerp and the Channel ports working~~ IT has a long way to come over land. Meanwhile the air force has been performing miracles in flying HUNDREDS OF TONS over direct from England. The Ninth Troop Carrier Command has done the

lion's share of this - carrying/gasoline, food, ammunition, spare parts and even mapsx/in some pretty unpleasant weather. We can be mighty glad they're on our team.

This is Richard C. Hottelet with first Army returning you to CBS in New York.

CBS Hottelet 2100 6 September 1944

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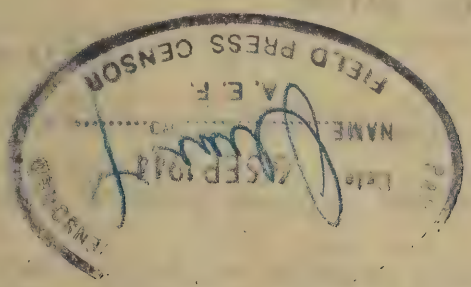
~~And down to the south of Metz~~ ALREADY General Hodges has been making a neat pile of the rubbish with a handbroom and whisking it

CBS ~~Hottelet~~ ~~5100 GMT~~

CBS Hottelet 2100 dbst 6 September 1944

On the American First Army front



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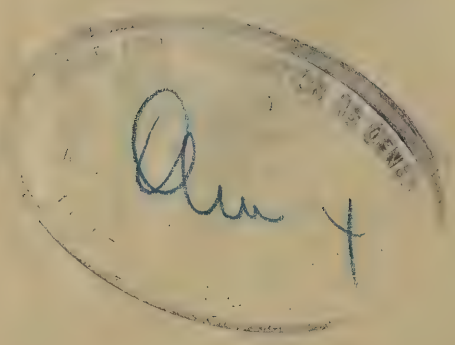
Supply is going to be one of the crucial elements in this operation -- advancing armies eat vast quantities of gasoline and ammunition and equipment. ~~Until we get Antwerp and the channel ports working~~ all this has a long way to come over land. ~~Meanwhile~~ the air force has been performing miracles in flying HUNDREDS OF TONS OF supply over direct from England. The Ninth Troop Carrier Command has done the

FIELD FALLS C

lion's share of this - carrying/gasoline, food, ammunition, spare parts and even mapsx in some pretty unpleasant weather. We can be mighty glad they're on our team.



6 September 1944

VIA AIR COURIER
To: Public Relations, M.O.I., London

For: Edward R. Murrow, Columbia Broadcasting System

Dear Ed,

My APO is 230, and if you send mail by air courier to that address, c/o Press section, it ought toget here pretty quickly. --- My trip here was instructive. We flew straight on to Paris after stopping at 21AG, where I had some speech with my freind; and then straight on to LeBourget, which is a godawful mess

. I went to the Bradley press conference this morning - most enlightening. I didn't see Ed there. He's up forward.

I'm going out for a couple of days tomorrow and will get some background etc. so's not to sound like a communique.

Please bring following excerpt of my 2100GMT piece tonight to Romine's attention: "Supply is going to be one of the crucial elements in this operation. Until we get Antwerp and the channel ports working it has to come a long way over land. Meanwhile the air force has been performing miracles in flying hundreds of tons ~~of~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ over direct from England. The Ninth Troop Carrier Command has done the lion's share of this - carrying gasoline, food, ammunition ~~and~~ spare parts and even maps - in some pretty unpleasant weather. We can be mighty glad they're on our team."

I've picked up LeSeuer's gear -- a goldmine when I get it washed. Ask him whether the mountains of candy drops were to lure adolescents into his clutches.

Both my hands are still pretty sore, but will be allright.

Cheers, chum.

Richard C. Hottelet

6 September 1944

Via 399 (and BBC)

To: Edward Murrow, Columbia Broadcasting System, London

Arrived safe sound. Arranged with Collingwood broadcast 1200 GMT September 7th and 2245 September ninth. Prewi apparently fully set up and working here. If news warrants will appear in between. Dave Baylor here will fill spots when eye in field. Please send schedule direct. Address is First Army Press Section and APO is 230. Hope frontward tomorrow, perhaps try Brussels transmitter. Regards.

Richard C. Hottelet

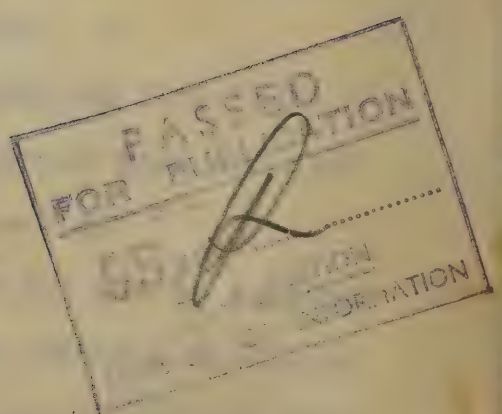
There is no rest for the Germans, there is no stopping the reports of disaster that flow into Hitler's headquarters. If one front is comparatively quiet, there is catastrophe at another; and political crisis has been walking hand in hand with military defeat.

Tonight the Prime Minister of Finland broadcasting to his people announced that Finland had asked the Germans to withdraw their troops from Finland, and that the Germans had agreed. He said with America's knowledge and consent that he had asked the Russians for an armistice. The Russians have not made their terms known, but they are not unconditional surrender.

The reasons the Finnish Premier gave for his action are almost as dramatic as the announcement itself. He said Germany could no longer give Finland military assistance - all German manpower was needed to defend the Reich. And many German forces no longer believed in victory. And then the Premier revealed that the Germans are about to lose the southern shore of the Gulf of Finland -- which means that the German 16th and 18th Armies will either evacuate Estonia and Latvia or be annihilated.

In London it's expected that the German evacuation of Finland will alter the whole Scandinavian Picture -- and that the next German step may well be to evacuate Norway.

The Germans must get troops from somewhere to defend the borders of the Reich. Tonight the Chief of Staff, Guderian said no Allied soldier would set foot in Germany -- but as he spoke news came from the front of another advance into Belgium. The American First Army is reported to have taken Tournai - only 43 miles from Brussels.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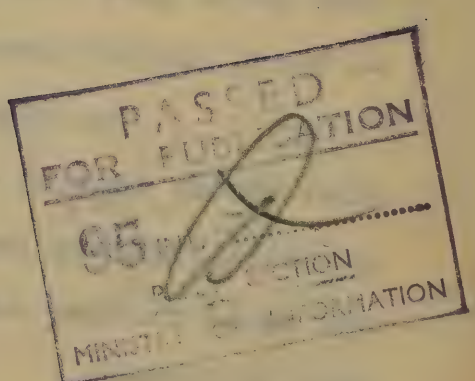
Infantry is said to have crossed the frontier at eleven this morning -- and again the story is one of only scattered German resistance. -- There are unconfirmed reports that the Americans tonight are in St. Quentin.

The day in France has progressed rather smoothly - almost as if the British and American armies were relaxing a bit after unprecedented advances. In these last seven days both British and American forces have advanced around 125 miles northward. You can't keep that up indefinitely. There comes a time when you've got to give your men and machines a rest and let supplies catch up with you.

This doesn't mean that the pace of the campaign is slowing down. German commentators already recognize that we're not going to allow them any time to establish defenses outside Germany -- and they agree that the defense of Germany is already a headache. The German Chief of Staff Guderian swore tonight that no allied soldier would set foot on German soil -- but the German radio had already stated that we had crossed the borders of Hitler's Greater Reich. If it's true that we've gone as far as Longwy and Thionville it means that we've gone into the new German provinces of Westmark and Moselland -- which Hitler formed by annexing Luxemburg, Alsace and Lorraine.

The high water mark of our advance is up around the Belgian border tonight -- and down around Verdun and twd Nancy around Lens and Douai. But there is still fighting back farther, in the Cambrai-St. Quentin sector -- and still farther south, where Allied forces are closing in on the city of LeHavre.

In southeastern Europe, too, the Germans are faced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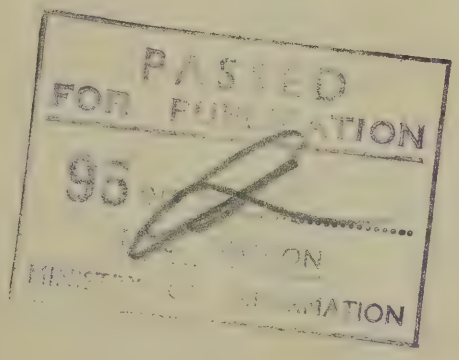
great danger to their isolated forces. Soviet troops today reached the Rumanian Bulgarian frontier. To allk his other worries Hitler must now add the task of getting his troops out of the Balkans in time.



with

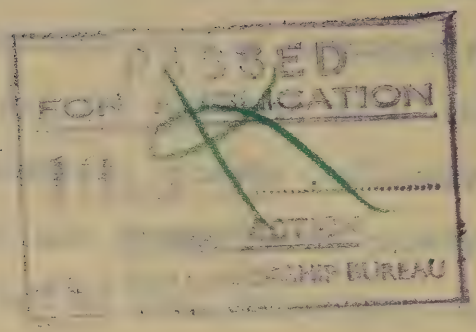
CBS Hottelet 0045 1 September 1944

Third Army front in France
Sensational news has come from the ~~front~~ tonight. American forces are reported to have crossed th Meuse River and to be only ten miles away from the Belgian border. They are driving on the town of Charleville. Advance elements are on the outskirts of Sedan and are driving ahead toward the Ardennes forest.

One correspondent goes as far as to say that the german Army is cracked wide open~~xxxx~~ and that the Battle of France is drawing to an end. --- Here at Supreme Headquarters the officials aren't quite so optimistic - but they're willing to accept the good news as it pours in. ----- It is true that we do not expect the Germans to make a stand anywhere in France. They will probably fall back on the Siegfried Line and the German border. --- They have no other choice. The Third Army has already broken the line of the Marne, the Aisne and now the Meuse & reached one of the gateways to Germany - the same path, by way of Sedan and the Ardennes, that the Germans took to storm into France in May 1940.

And the pressure is being kept up on the British Second Army and the American First Army fronts as well. ~~xxxxxxx~~ Although we are meeting light to moderate resistance in spots, nowhere is there a sign of an organized, effective stand.

On the western flank the British are moving northward both sides of Amiens. The line of the Somme, where the Germans might have made a stand is broken, and the British are already extending their comfortable ~~xxx~~ bridgehead over the river. To the left the Canadians are moving ahead, after occupying Rouen. And the American first army moving due north of Paris is advancing on Compiegne - where the Armistice was signed in the last war, and where Hitler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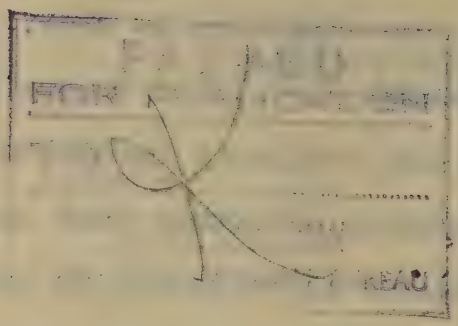
made the French sign the armistice in 1940.

The main reasons racing
~~[illegible]~~ the Allied troops are ~~[illegible]~~ forward are
~~[illegible]~~ the weight of men and equipment wehave in France, and the excellence of the services of supply that keep them going. The dash and daring of our command in following up every opportunity is another major factor --- but, more important than anything else is the fact that the major battle in France has already been fought and won, and we are now reaping the harvest of that victory.

This major battle was the pinning down and destruction of the German Army in France as a first class fighting force. The inch by inch fighting around Caen, Falaise, Vire and Mortain has made possible the present leapfrog movement over scores of miles. The Germans in France have been bled white.

This afternoon General Eisenhower revealed the losses we have inflicted on the Germans in Northern France alone in the first eleven weeks of the campaign. Fortythree divisions - including some of the crack Panzer and Paratroop Divisions of the German Army have been destroyed or broken/and four/more are isolated in Brittany and the Channel islands. The Germans have suffered 400,000 casualties, of which more than half are prisoners of war. 1300 tanks, 20,000 trucks, 2,000 guns, have been captured or destroyed - almost 5,000 planes destroyed or damaged.

These are cold statistics - but what they mean in terms of shattering defeat will soon be revealed. Five years ago tonight the Nazis, swollen with strength + drunk with power started this war. Today the Germans in France are bled white. The Battle for Germany is not far off.

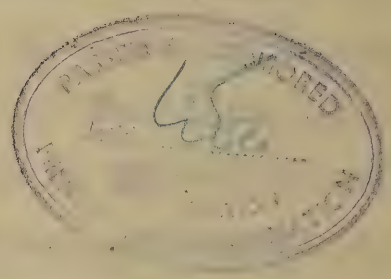


CBS Hottelet 1400 +1500 31 August 1944

General Eisenhower gave us a press conference today. He came to clear up several points that been misinterpreted in the past few months. He hadn't been up on the little platform in the briefing room more than a minute before he had the whole audience - and it's a pretty hardboiled one - in the palm of his hand. The General looked brown and well — but slightly tired. His grin was as broad as ever when some of the people asked him tricky questions - like when the war would be over, or whether he was going to clean up the rocket coast on his way up ~~or whether he got as good cooperation from French generals as he did from British and American commanders.~~

But, for the most part, what he said in three quarters of an hour was serious — he spoke of Allied unity and teamwork and repeated the point that the new division in command in France, which puts General Bradley on equal footing as an army group commander with General Montgomery, that this certainly did not mean a demotion or a slap in the face for Montgomery. He said that Montgomery had had as much of a hand as any one othercommander in working out the strategy of the French campaign, the breakthrough at Avranches, the Falaise pocket, and the push now across Seine and Marne.

The most interesting things General Eisenhower had to say were about the progress of the invasion campaign. He said that we were well ahead of schedule. The line of the front today, D plus 85 was well in advance of the line he had drawn as the objective for D plus 90. ~~And he said that a report wouldbe made public today on the great losses we had inflicted on the enemy in France since June 6th.~~



----- As far as strategy goes, the General said that the Germans had used their forces in such a way as to give us the greatest chance for success. After the first eight days of the invasion, when the Germans saw they couldn't throw us back into the sea - instead of retiring to the east, and keeping their forces intact to delay us across France, they brought up all the strength they had to keep us in the narrow bridgehead. General Eisenhower said we had met elements of four German armies in France - the 5th Panzer Army, the 7th the 15th and the 1st Armies. - Then, when the Americans did break through at Avranches, the Germans kept the main weight of their strength way out forward, and gave us the chance to encircle it.

General Ike said that the Germans could do no better thing for us than to keep their good elements forward, and try to make determined stands - because that gave us the chance to destroy his forces. ~~However so, he said, the chances are that the Germans won't be able to put up a determined defence before they get to the Siegfried line.~~ I asked him what he thought of the defensive strength of the Siegfried line -- and, grinning a bit, he said that he hadn't studied it intensively; he hadn't gotten that far ahead, and was still concentrating on studying the Somme and the Oise. But then he grew serious and said that any defensive line was no better than the morale of the troops that held it. And he hoped that, by the time we had reached the German frontier, we would have given the Germans such severe blows as badly to shake their morale.

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--- Someone else asked the General where the Germans were going to get the troops from to make a stand on the borders of Germany, whether they were going to have to bring their forces down from Norway and Denmar - The General said he thought they'd have to do that; and went on to promise that he would not make it easy for them to do.

Then someone asked when he thought the war would be over. General Ike put on his broadest grin for that one, and saidthat the press was always trying to get him to indulge in prophecies. He wouldn't go any farther than he had last Christmas. And then, you remember, he said thatbthe war in Europe would be overthis year.

In all the three quarters of an hour the General showed he could give it and take it with the best. When someone asked him about the doodle bug positions ~~in~~ on the channel coast, he laughed and said he didn't want to tip the Germans off as to what his plans were. But, he said, noone disliked the rocket bombs more than he did. And when he went to France around the first of August some of his friends accused him of not being able to stand it any longer in England.

When you looked at the man in the simple uniform in the front of the long, mapcovered room, standing straight with his arms on his hips, turning to point toward the map; and then, in his deep, friendly voice talk earnestly about how proud he was to be an Allied commander, in charge of a great team. Well, you began to feel how proud you were that this great American is the Supreme Commander.

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PRESS SECTION
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

Follow Eisenhower CBS Hottelet 1400 31 August 1944

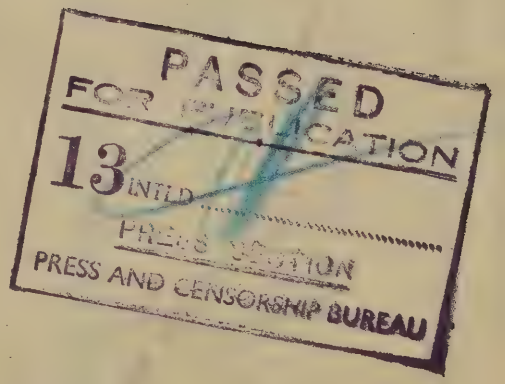
~~The American Third Army~~

The news from the front this morning more than justifies everything General Eisenhower told us on and off the record.

The American Third Army has taken Laon and advanced two ~~miles~~ and a half miles north and northeast from it. We are now only 54 miles from the Belgian border. And on ~~the~~ behind this great spearhead, and on both sides of it the whole northern French front from Rouen in the west to Chaolns sur Marne in the east is rolling forward.

Behind the Third Army more American troops are pouring northward both sides of Rheims north of the Marne. And the bridgehead across the Aisne at Soissons has been extended.

On our western flank Canadians and British troops are also moving north. The British Second Army has ~~taken Beauvais~~ taken Beuvais and Marseilles en Beauvaisis - fifty miles north of the Seine. Leading elements are now within 20 milesof Amiens.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PRESS SECTION
PRESS AND CENSORSHIP BUREAU

CBS Hottelet 1500 31 August 1944

ADD EISENHOWER

With characteristic modesty General Eisenhower made sure that every part of our military machine got its c edit.

———— pick up paragraph two, page one ————

And he went out of his way to express his respect and admiration for the French. He said that the American troops who passed through Paris the other day were not conducting a victory parade. They were on the way to the front, and he was asked to use them as a show of strength to the people of Paris —— people who were uncertain of themselves and their position after the confused and violent events of the days before. The sight of these soldiers quiet them and gave them a new confidence.

And, [redacted] General Eisenhower summed up his policy toward the French. He said his aim was to restore France to French authorities and French administration as quickly as possible.

As you see, General Eisenhower is talking toward political as well as military victory.

CBS Hottelet 1500 30 August 1944

In Northern France this morning both flanks of the Allied forces are rolling forward.

On the right flank spearheads of the American Third Army are still galloping north. In the last twelve hours they've moved more than 25 miles northeastward from Soissons. This morning they were only 35 miles from the Belgian border at Montaigu. They must be also advancing on a front of almost ten miles because this morning, they were reported less than two miles from the road and rail center of Laon. Behind them, to the south, we now have two bridgeheads over the Aisne to send on the reinforcements that will sustain the advance.

We are now racing across battlefields of the last war -- where armies grappled and earth still scarred in places by trenches, staggered back and forth long four/years. We've already reached areas that we didn't get to until September 1918. -- But today we have still met no organized, effective German opposition. So far we're still moving on as quickly as we can follow up with supplies. Which is fast enough.

Behind them men and equipment are crossing the Marne on an almost c ntinuos front from Paris to Vitry and following on up to the Aisne. Germans that have been passed by our flying armor and motorized columns between the Aisne and Marne are being mopped up by the infantry. We haven't yet taken Rheims, but we're going ahead to the northeast on both sides of it.

In between this right flank and our left flank on the Seine, where the other major Allied movement is taking place, there have been some advances out of Paris. Northeast of the city we'vetaken the air-

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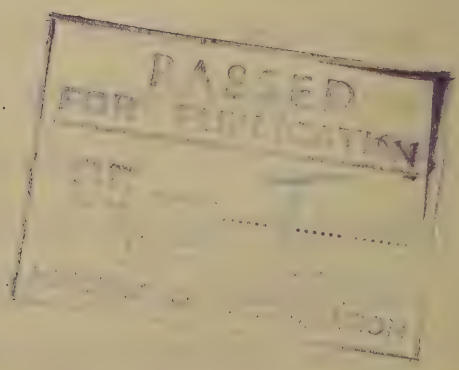
field of LeBourget, where Lindbergh landed after flying the Atlantic. And American troops have also moved on almost 18 miles to Pontoise.

But it's over the Seine, to the northwst of the capital that the second major allied drive is now in progress. The latest word comes from the German High Command Communique, which says that the city of Rouen has been evacuated by the enemy. --- The Allied advance was preceded by an extensive buildup of about a week, during which great quantities of equipment and men were sent across the Seine into the four bridgeheads. In the last 24 hours three of these bridgeheads have joined up, forming a solid front of 35 miles from Louviers to Mantes Gassicourt. -- And from this solid foundation the Allied forces have begun to push morthward. Already they've reached Longshamps - 20 miles north of the river. They're headed for the German rocket coast. And before one unit started the attack yesterday its general issued an order of the day to his men, saying: "This is the country from which the Germans launch their flying bombs against England. - For the first time inthis war we are fighting directly to free our homes, our wives and our children from German attacks. Every yard we advance reduces the area from which he can launch his secret weapons. --- Onemore kilometer means one less bomb."

But there's more at stake in northern France right now than even the German V 1 and V 2 bases. General Eisenhower is looking farthhr ahead. Already Belgian patriots are being warned to mobilize resistance and prepare for the battle of liberation. -- Where General Patton's forces are now they can easily wheel a bit to the left and drive on through Belgium --- and give the Germans their Schlieffen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plan in reverse.

There was one parallel with the last war that struck me as particularly significant last night. The most prominent German military commentator, General Dittmar, admitted that Germany was no longer fighting for victory -- but was fighting only to raise the price of victory for the Allies; thereby try to get some easier way out. --- This is exactly the argument that Ludendorff used in the famous cabinet meeting of October 17th, when he tried to get the Kaiser to go on with the war. Three weeks later Germany collapsed.

There is no reason to suppose that this will be repeated now; but other German propagandists are going to hysterical lengths to keep the people working and the soldiers fighting. They're promising flatly that Germany will win the war with secret weapons if it can only hold out another six months.

Meanwhile, in Rumania and Poland and Italy and France/the German army is being destroyed.

FOR [illegible] PRESS SECTION MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

CBS Hottelet 1400 30 August 1944 1265

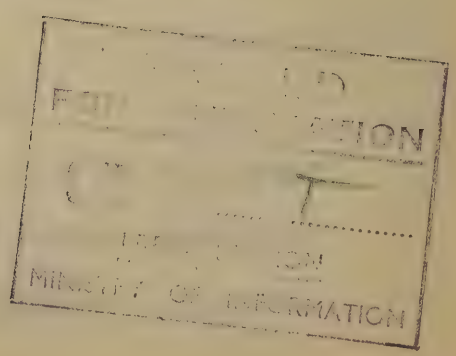
Spearheads of the American Third Army are still driving north this afternoon after an advance of more than 85 miles in something like twelve hours. Last night they were in Soissons - this morning they had reached Montaigu, 85 miles to the east. Here they are now only 85 miles from the Belgian border. north.

Our forces have also advanced on the road and rail center of Laon, and are now less than two miles from it. We now have two bridgeheads over the Aisne to feed this northward push -- one in Soissons and one fourteen miles to the east at Pont Arcy. As a matter of fact it's hardly right to call our forces "spearheads", because the infantry is so close behind the forward elements that it's a selfcontained army moving forward.

Deeply as we've pushed into German territory, there's still no sign of any organized, effective German opposition. So far we're still moving on as quickly as our supplies can follow -- and, as you've seen, that's plenty fast.

Equipment and men are now pouring over the Marne on an almost continuous front from Paris to Vitry and following on up to the Aisne. The Germans that our flying columns leave behind them are being mopped up at leisure. --- We have not yet taken the cahedral to n of Rheims, but we are advancing northeast on both sides of it.

There's progress to report from the Paris area, too. Northeast of the town we've taken the aifield of LeBourget - where Lindbergh landed 17 years ago after flying the Atlantic. And northwest of Paris, American forces have cleared the forest of St. Germain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and come within two miles of Pontoise, 18 miles from the city.

But it's over on the Seine to the northwest of Paris that the second major allied drive is now in progress. After sending men and supplies across the Seine into their bridgeheads for about a week, the British, Canadian and American troops have now joined up - and form a continuous/front 35 mile on the east bank of the Seine from Louviers to Mantes. And yesterday they began to break out to the north. Already they've gone ahead 20 miles to the village of Longchamps. --- They're headed for the German rocket coast. And before its one British unit started the attack yesterday general issued an order of the day to his men saying" This is the country from which the Germans launch their flying bombs against England. -- For the fist time in this war we are fighting directly to free our homes, our wives and our children from German attacks. Every yard we advance reduces the area from which he can launch his secret weapons. --- One more kilometer means one less bomb."

But there's much more at stake in northern France right now than even the German V 1 bases. General Eisenhower is looking farther ahead. Already Belgian patriots are being warned to mobilize resistance and prepare for the battle of liberation. --- Where General Patton's forces are now they can easily wheel a bit to the left and drive on through Belgium --- and give the Germans their Schlieffen plan in reverse.

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Fuel, ammunition, food have poured along behind our advancing troops- and you've got to remember that our main harbor, Cherbourg, is now morethan 250 miles in our rear. ---- When they hand out the medals for this operation I hope they have more then a few for the men of the services of supply - the men who drove the trucks for days without sleep, the men who piloted the planesin any weather to keep the armor rolling forward.

The Americans east of Paris are in the center of the stage at the moment. But big things are in preparation on the Seine northwest of the city. Here it looks as if the Allies were being somewhat more cautious. The four bridgeheads on the east bank are still being strengthened and deepened. There's been no dramatic breakout. It's not that the enemy is holding us in, it's that General Montgomery wants to complete all his preparations before he pushes on. --- The Germans left west of the Seine are rapidly being liquidated or driven across the river.

In the immediate vicinity of Paris the northern and eastern suburbs are being cleared. And inside the city a great parade - the first formal parade of American troops since the last war - should be taking place right now. Swinging down the Champs Elysee they'll be getting another tremendous ovation from the people.

Of course everyone, mainly the Germans, is interested to know the direction of General Eisenhower's main thrust north from Paris. It may be that our air forces are once again tracing the pattern of future operations. Yesterday 800 American fighter bombers swept up through northern France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Holland and

even across the German border in agreat aerial left hook. Their target was transport - and they knocked out hundred of locomotives, railroad cars, trucks and barges. They're doingthe job they've been doing since D-Day, immobilizing the enemy until our armies follow up to destroy him.

One very interesting incident in yesterday's operation was an encounter with some new German fighters - Messerschmitt 262's. These are twin jet propelled planes, with one jet on each wing. They're tremendously fast, but even so they're slower than the Messerschmitt rocket planes, the 163's. --- The German talk about revolutionary weapons is not all bluff. If they had the time to get them out of the experimental stage they could be positively dangerous -- but the Germans are not getting that time.

With all the serious worries the enemy has, he's also got lots of minor troubles. One of these is the ghost voice that keeps breaking in on his news broadcasts. Here's a sample of one of these dialogues last night. -- The German announcer got on the air and started o read the news : Here, he said, is the latest word from the front.

Are you here again with that rubbish? asked the ghost. The announcer went on: The Allies think they've already won the war. The ghost guffawed: No question about it.

And when the flusteres Nazi stumbled on to talk of an attempt on DeGaulle's life the Ghost howled: There'll be another for Hitler soon. --- The dialogue ended when the announcer read: The Allies have been able to make some advances. And the ghost applauded -- now at last you're tellingthe truth.

CBS Hottelet 1400 29 August 1944

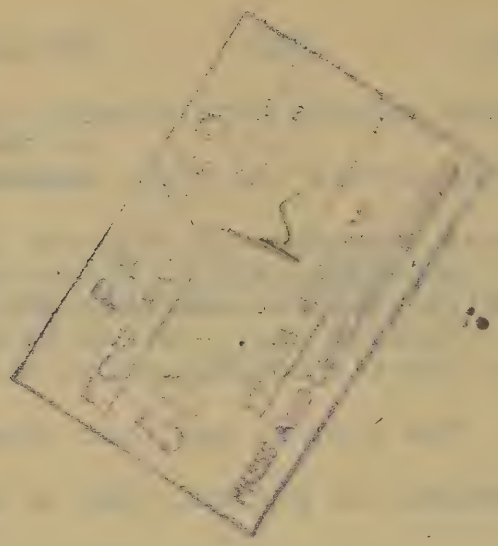
American armored columns have crossed the Marne and are driving north at two points. Pouring across the river between Meaux and La Ferte our forces have already advanced fourteen miles to a hamlet called Cuvergnon. 18 miles to the north is Compiegne, and 21 miles northeast is Soisson - names tt mean so much fm last war. -So far we're meeting only light German resistance, and there's no indication when and if it's going to get stiffer. ----- The Germans say that General Patton is in command of this new American end run and that he has a huge force at his disposal.

It won't be long before the entire Marne front is in motion. We're operating along the river for about fifty miles /almost as far as Chateau Thierry, and south of the river several columns are mopping up remnants of German units. Montmirail is reached La Ferte liberated, Arcis reached --- and on our eastern flank the troops that crossed the Seine at Troyes are still pushing north and east. They were last placed officially fifteen miles beyond the town.

This rapid motion east of Paris is a logistical triumph. All the thousands of tons of supplies, the vast quantities of material it takes to set an army in motion have all been brought to the spot without any loss of time. Fuel, ammunition, food have poured along behind the advancing troops -- and you've got to remember that our main harbor, Cherbourg, is now more than 250 miles in our rear.

~~-- When they hand out the medals for this operation I hope they have more than a few for the men of the services of supply - them men who drove the trucks for days without sleep, the men who piloted the planes in any weather to keep the armor rolling forward.~~

The spotlight is on the Americans east of Paris for the

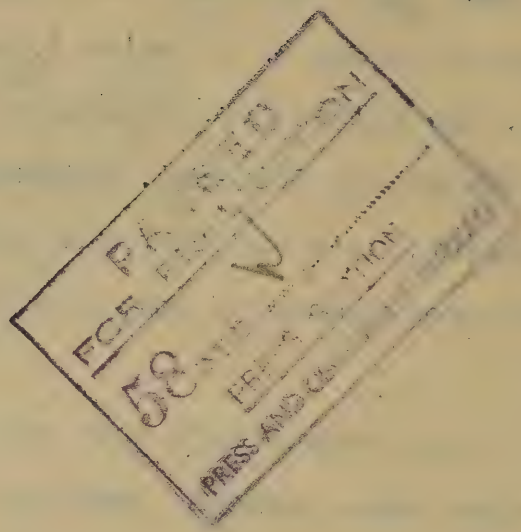


moment, but ~~xxxx~~ big things are in preparation on the Seine/northwest of ~~Paris~~ the city. Here it seems as if we're following a slightly more cautious policy. The Allies four bridgeheads on the east bank are still being strengthened and deepened. ~~Its xxxtxhatxthe~~ There's been no dramatic breakout. It's not that the enemy is holding us in, it's that General Montgomery wants to complete all his preaparations before he pushes on.

The Germans left west of the Seine are being pushed into the three Seine loops between Rouen and the sea. They're practically cut off from one another by the river bends, and ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ The Germans haven't many more hours ~~before they're crossed or are captured.~~ to escape.

In the immediate vicinity of Paris the northern and eastern suburbs are being cleared. And inside the city a great pa- the first formal parade of American troops since the last war rade/~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ is due to be swinging down the Champs Elysee right now.

Meanwhile our air forces are once again tracing the pattern of things to come. ~~There've been the usual attacks on the Germans xxxx the Seine by day and night; and our medium bombers have again blown up precious German gasoline dumps. But the most interesting of yesterday's operations was xxxxxxxxx~~ 800 American fighter bombers. ~~They~~ swept up through northern France, Belgium, Luxembourg Holland and even across the German border in a great ~~xxx~~aerial left hook. Their target was transport - and they knocked out hundredds of locomotives, railroad cars, trucks and barges. They're doing the job they've been doing since D-Day, sweeping ahead of our armies, ~~xxxxxxx~~ immobilizing the enemy until they come up and destroy him.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CBS Hottelet 1500 29 August 1944

The spotlight in France has shifted to the area east and north/of Paris. Here, American armor, without stopping ~~long enough~~ to catch its breath, has thrown two bridgeheads across the Marne and has driven northward 14miles.

Our forces have already reached the hamlet of Cuvergnon, and is advancing across the battlefields of the last war./Only 18 miles north is Compiegne, and 21 miles northast is Soisson.

There doesn't seem to be anything yet to stop our advance. German resistance has been light and scattered, and there's no sign that it will be any more effective even farther on.

We don't know the strength of ~~the~~ our forces. ~~We have no notion there.~~ The Germans say they consist of several army corps commanded by General Patton.

It won't be long before the whole front of the Marne is in motion. We're operating along the line of the river for about fifty miles already, almost as far as Chateau Thierry. And columns still farther east are advancing north of Troyes to the Marne. South of the river, between it and the Seine, we're still mopping up. Montmirail and Arcis have been reached, La Ferte liberated. It's somewhere between Meaux and La Ferte that we have our bridges across the Marne , so you can see that our spearheads have driven on without bothering much about any Germans on their flank.

This rapid motion east of Paris is a logistical triumph. All the thousands of tons of supplies, the vast quantities of material it takes to let an army lunge forward, have all been brought to the spot without any loss of time.

~~There's no indication yet, that they're breaking loose to the north,~~ though. Farther down river the Canadian bridgehead at Elbeuf has also been expanded, while the Germans ~~on the~~ west bank of the ~~river~~ Seine are being pushed back ~~overthe river~~. -- It's worth saying that the Germans here have managed to fight a skilful rearguard action with scattered elements rescued from a major catastrophe. And the extent of ~~this disaster is revealed by the fact that~~ it was announced tonight that between August 10th and August 25th 92,000 German prisoners were taken in Normandie -- 42,000 of them in the Falaise pocket. The Germans have had to write off five elite Panzer Divisions and 14 infantry divisions.

~~That explains why we are now galloping over the battlefields that were fought for yard by yard in the first world war.~~ helps

And this terrible news from the west is not even the worst that's pouring into Hitler's headquarters tonight. In Rumania the Red Army has captured the great port and naval base of Constanza, and farther north they've forced the Danube to bring more strength into the northern Dobrudja. Inside Rumania all is still confusion for the Germans - and Hitler has issued another order to all soldiers to fight to the death to prevent complete disaster. --- Other Russian forces are reported to have crossed the Carpathians into Hungary -- and tonight a political crisis has overthrown the Hungarian Government. And fresh burdens are piled on the weakening German army tonight the Slovaks announced that more German troops have entered Slovakia to cope with the increasing numbers of parachutists and partisans.

There's no indication yet, that they're breaking loose to the north, through. Further down river the Canadian bridgehead at Milhaut has also been expanded, while the Germans on the west bank of the Seine are being pushed back over the river. — It's worth saying that the Germans here have managed to fight a skilful rearguard action with scattered elements rescued from a major catastrophe. And the extent of this disaster is revealed by the fact that between August 10th and August 25th 82,000 German prisoners were taken in Normandie — 42,000 of them in the Falaise pocket. The Germans have had to write off five elite Panzer Divisions and 14 infantry divisions.

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CBS Hottelet 0045 30 August 1944 1360

American armor and motorized infantry are tonight halfway between Paris and the Belgian border, and still moving. Ahead of them there is so far no effective German opposition. Behind them more American forces are pouring northward across the Marne on a 125 mile front. The Germans say that General Patton has three Army Corps, ten divisions, in motion here.

The news came in this evening that Soissons on the River Aisne/has been liberated. The town is astride the river, so it means we are already across. And ~~early~~ still later the word was flashed to London from General Patton's headquarters that the towns of Chalon sur Marne and Vitry le Francois - ~~[illegible]~~ - had also been liberated and that our troops had pushed past them over the Marne. ~~[illegible]~~ It is also reported from the front now that our patrols are operating int the vicinity of Rheims.

55 miles from Belgium

But this isn't the only movement in this great Marne sector -- we have also been pushing eastward from Troyes ~~[illegible]~~ - the Germans say a whole army corps is involved in this operation to cut off the south of France. Well, we're now 15 miles farther on there too, at Piney.

Over on the left shoulder of the Allied~~x~~front, along the Seine northwest of Paris there haven't been any such dramatic developments, but there has been progress too. The first two bridgeheads over the river - the ones at Vernon and ~~[illegible]~~ Gassicourt - have now joined up and tanks of the British Second Army have driven forward 14 miles to the village of Strepagny. They've cut the Paris-Rouen road.

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PRESS SECTION
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

CBS Hottelet 1500 28 August 1944 1316

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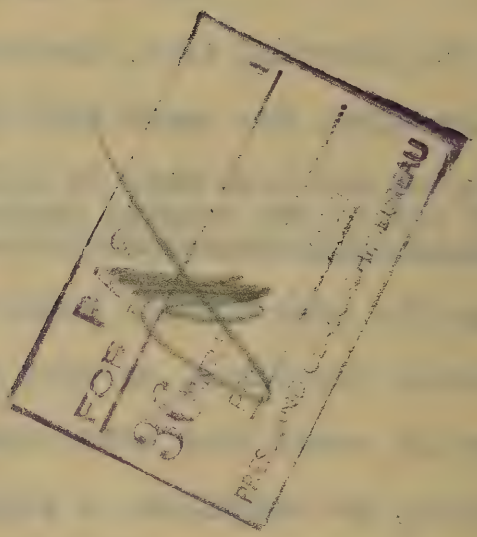
On both sides of Paris today Allied forces are methodically, pushing ahead, and bringing up troops and supplies for new, dramatic operations.

East of Paris it looks as if the Marne is going to be the starting line. American forces there have advanced eleven miles along the south bank of the River to liberate the town of Meaux. They're now less than 25 miles from Chateau Thierry. Southwards, our forces are pouring across the Seine on a thirty mile front, into the area between Seine and Marne. There's no sign yet that we've crossed the Marne, or that we've pushed as far as Vitry. At the moment it seems that we're concentrating on cleaning up between the two rivers, to establish a jumping off platform to the north.

Our spearheads are pushing on in this area, and the infantry is moving on behind to mop up. We've pushed on northeast from Nogent, and we're cleaning up between Romilly and Troyes. -- There's no sign of any effective German opposition btween the two rivers. The only forces we've met here so far have been scattered groups of anything between afew men and a thousand. .

There's no sign that German opposition will be more determined when we do push on northward across the Marne. --- How soon this advance will come, and in which direction it will move are hidden behind a security curtain. All we know so far is that our troops are still pushing on northward from Troyes toward the Marne. When we cross the Marne it may well be on a seventy mile front.

To the west of Paris the Seine will probably be the starting



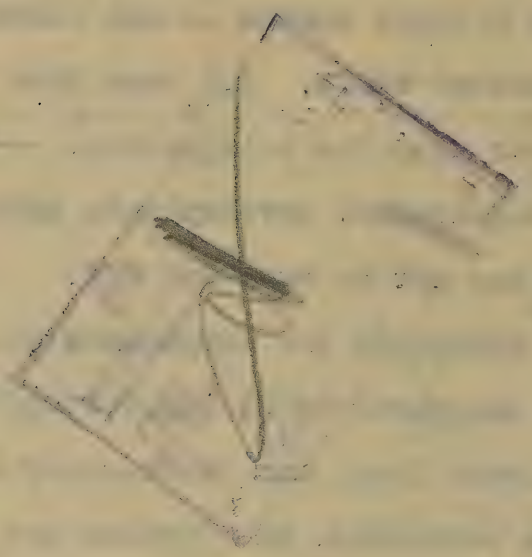
line. ~~At~~ We have the advantage thre of already having three good bridgeheads across the river. At the moment we're engaged in throwing more bridges across -- ~~all kinds, up th the ones that~~ will ~~carry our heaviest tanks~~. ~~And~~ over them more men and more equipment is rolling over into the bridgeheads. --- It's not likely that there will be any sensational developments until we complete this buildup. - But ~~that~~ may not be very far off.

Meanwhile the Canadians are cramming the German forces left west of the river still tightertogether. Their main route of escape, the Rouen loop, is practically sealed off. - But there's no sign of mass surrender. The Germans are fighting good rearguard actions to get what they can across the river. And from there they still seem to be retreating northeastward in the direction of Germany and the low countries.

No one knows where the enemy can try to make a stand. The consensus of opinion is that he can't hope to stabilize a front this side of the German border. Heavy losses have broken his back. Figures out this morning reveal the American Third Army alone has so far taken 65,000 prisoners and killed 16,000 more. And the Third Army has been in action only about a month.

Already our air forces are bombing and strafing enemy movement north of the Seine as far as Denmark. --- The Germans are having luck today, though. The weather report from France is bad - rain over the whole battle area, and a low ceiling of ten tenths clouds.

Your guess is as good as mine about which direction the

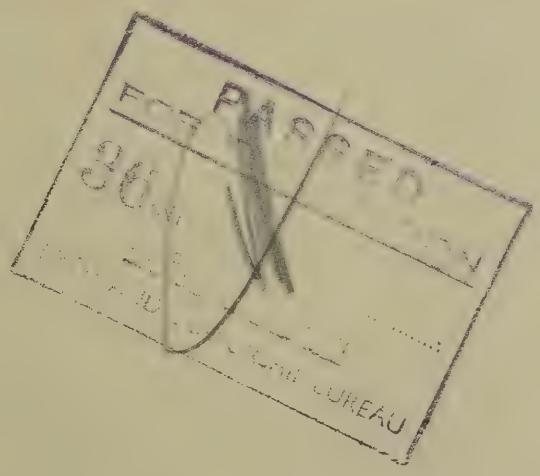


Allied push will take from the Seine and the Marne. Some people, who're looking pretty far ahead, say that we're going to go north through Belgium and then into Germany, to miss the strongest part of the West Wall, which ends just north of Aix la Chappelle.

Whether this is so or not, all of us Londoners hope that we'll look in on the channel coast on our way up and put an end to the doodle bug and rocket bases.

Inside Paris the German snipers are being cleared out, and the city is becoming generally more quiet. The enemy is out of the Bois de Boulogne, so the traditional nursemaids and baby carriages can move back in.

The more serious part of the reconstruction of a free administration is also being dealt with. General DeGaulle has begun political conversations with the French resistance leaders.



CBS Hottelet 1400 28 August 1944

American forces are this morning pushing eastward rapidly along the Marne./They have already liberated the town of Meaux and are moving along the south bank of the river toward Chateau Thierry, less than 25 miles away. There's no indication that our troops have crossed the Marne yet. But we're gradually getting onto the battlefields of the last war. /

Meanwhile more and more American forces are pouring into the area between the Seine and the Marne. There's no question any more of bridgeheads across the Seine south of Paris, we're crossing the river on a more than thirty mile front. And our spearheads are pushing on, leaving the mopping up to the following infantry. Northeast of Nogent we've pushed on to reach Vinnenauxe, and Provins. We're outside Romilly and between there and Troyes - which the Germans say we now hold completely - we're clearing the ground of enemy troops. ---- There's no sign that the Germans are in any position to stop us between the two rivers - or, for that matter, north of the Marne. The only forces we've met in this entire area so far have been scattered groups of no more than a thousand men. --- We're consolidating as we move and, though there's no confirmation that we've gone as far as Vitry, the stage is being set here for more dramatic operations. We know that our troops are continuing to advance north from Troyes - but the security curtain is down on the details.

Inside Paris German snipers are being cleared out, and the city generally is quiet. The Bois de Boulogne is free once more for nursemaids and baby carriages. And, losing no time in restoring a free, normal administration, General DeGaulle has begun

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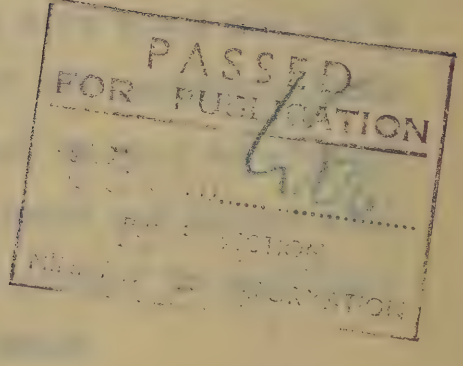
conversations with the leaders of French Resistance.

Northwest of Paris, between the capital and the sea, Allied forces are also continuing to push men and supplies across the Seine. The American bridgehead at Mantes is being enlarged, spread and is beginning to eastward. The British and Canadian bridgeheads are also expanding. There are no sensational developments to report from this sector yet - the Allies are still mainly occupied in throwing more bridges across the river and building up on the other side. When these complicated supply and terrain problems are solved - which should be fairly soon - we can once again expect swift movement in the German flank.

Meanwhile the Canadians are cramming the German troops left west of the River still tighter together. The Rouen loop, which was their main road of escape, has been sealed off to all practical purposes. But the enemy is still fighting good rearguard actions There's no sign of mass surrender. He's fighting to get what he can back across the river, and from there up to the northeast in the direction of Germany and the low countries.

Noone knows where the enemy can try to make ax stand. The consensus of opinion is that he can't hope to stabilize a front this side of the German border. Heavy losses have broken his back — figures out this morning reveal that the American Third Army alone has so far taken 65,000 prisoners and killed 16,000 more. And the Third Army has been in action only about a month.

Already our Air Forces are bombing and strafing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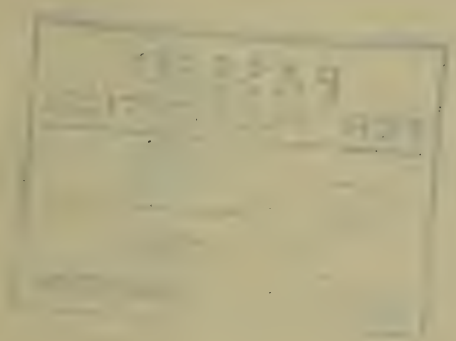
enemy movement x north of the Seine as far as Denmark. --Bday the Germans are in luck again, though, as far as air interference is concerned. The weather report from France this morning is bad -- there's rain over the whole battle area and a low ceiling of ten tenths clouds.



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CBS Hottelet Admiral 2030 27 August 1944

Allied Troops continue to pour over the Seine above and below Paris. Only at scattered points are the Germans fighting rearguard actions to hold us up. The main movement of the German forces in France is northward and eastward toward Germany.

West of Paris we now have three bridgeheads across the Seine. There's the American one at Mantes Gassicourt, which is being expanded in the face of not much more than sporadic artillery fire; there's the British one at Vernon, already three miles deep; and the Canadian bridgehead at Pont de L'Arche ten miles south of possible Rouen. These bridgeheads are the starting points for still another German pocket -- at least Berlin seems to think that the Allies' next move is to drive to the sea and cut off everything north of Rouen and LeHavre. Even if this doesn't happen right away, the Germans fleeing over the Seine and out of that area will find we're running right along side of them, nudging them with high explosives.

Already bombers and fighter bombers are ranging over the whole area by day, bombing columns and the fuel dumps they need to move. And fast Mosquitoes are scourging them by night.

Back on the left bank of the Seine the Germans are still trying to fight their way back across the river. They've only got a small pocket left - only a few square miles completely surrounded by the Canadians who're hacking away at their rearguards. Most of the Germans are trying to get away up the narrow Seine loop to Rouen.

Here, the river flowing around them makes them a perfect target; and in todays beautiful weather our medium and fighter bombers have been sending their bombs down into closely packed German transport. --// The Germans are getting men back over the Seine - but they'll have to be completely reformed and reequipped if they're to stand again and fight. There's no indication that they can do this, much before the German border.

On toward Paris the left bank of the Seine is almost completely cleared of the enemy. And above the capital, to the south, American troops are spilling over four more bridgeheads. Strong forces are pushing deep into the area between the Seine and the Marne. The ones shoving east from Melun have gone 23 miles to Pecy without meeting opposition. Farther east at Nogent we're mopping up; and it's only where we've pushed on from Troyes that we're meeting considerable opposition now. It's there that we've come closest to Germany so far - the Saar is only 145 miles away.

inside Paris. There's still plenty of excitement. Yesterday afternoon shots rang out in the Cathedral of Notre Dame as General DeGaulle attended a Thanksgiving Mass; and there continues to be sporadic shooting in various parts of the city. The Germans seem to have fairly strong groups of snipers in the northern and northeastern suburbs. -- Today General Eisenhower arrived in Paris and his first words were praise for the spirit of French resistance. Inside the city the authotities are trying to hasten things back to normal. Three thousand tons of American food are promised daily for thenext six weeks. cans of meat, flour, fats, condensed milk and chocolate will be coming in. It's still only a fraction of the need. The

meat ration is a half a pound a week. -- But normality isn't far off. Already the first bicycle race has been arranged for the Vincennes Velodrome tomorrow.

But while France is striving to return to normal, Germany is moving more rapidly toward crisis. Goebbels is trying to keep his people at work in the face of the catastrophic news coming in from all fronts. But this afternoon the military catastrophe was brought much closer to home. For the first time RAF heavy bombers have bombed Germany by daylight in strength. Between 250 and 500 Halifaxes went into the Ruhr this afternoon -- into the Happy Valley that blossoms with Flak, to bomb another synthetic oil plant. The Luftwaffe couldn't keep them away.

This combined bombing by day has been the prelude to great events ever since June 6th.

It may well be that the RAF and the American Air Forces now will combine their tremendous strength to play the overture to Germany's last act.

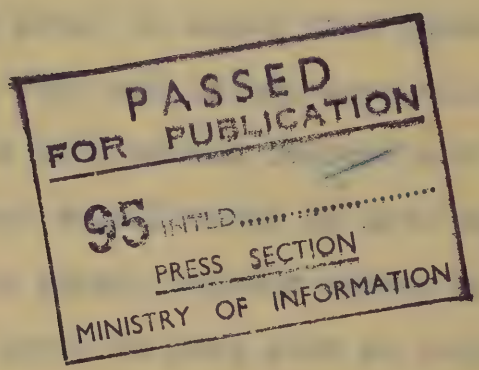
CBS Hottelet 1500 27 August 1944

Allied divisions are advancing on all fronts in France. West of Paris they're pushing across the Seine at another point, and compressing the German forces that still remain on our side of the River. -- East of Paris the advance of the American spearheads has turned north from Troyes. Already it's gone 12 miles byond the town and is only thirty two miles from the River Marne. -- And too south of Paris/the Germans are being cleared from their last remaining points near the Seine . An enemy report says that all of southwestern France is being evacuated.

Inside the French capital the Germans say that street fighting still continues in the northeastern parts of the city. And last night Paris had its first severe German air raid since 1940.

The Allied forces pushing northward both sides of Paris will be providing us with most of the dramatic news during the next few weeks. The Germans are guessing that the western column will sooner or later turn toward the sea in the area of Abbeville,or farther north,to cut off all enemy forces on the channel coast; and they say that our eastern column may just as well push on toward the German Saar frontier or the Ardennes -- now less than 150 miles away. Whether this is a good guess or not SHAEF is not saying. General Eisenhower's policy of silence when things are moving quickly has paid good dividends so far and will be continued.

One thing seems fairly clear -- and that is that the Germans won't have the strength to interfere effectively with anything General Ike wants to do. It's correct that von Kluge has been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successful in withdrawing a good number of his troops back across the Seine -- but most of his heavy equipment has been left behind. And heavy weapons are the only things that will stop our armored fist. Even so there are many Germans still left on the west bank of the Sein who are being mercilessly pounded as they try to get across. --- And Allied air forces are ranging over the whole of northern France by day, and by night, bombing and strafing fuel dumps, railroad trains, and columns of German motor transport that all seem to be fleeing eastward.

But our pursuit isn't only by air. British troops have crossed the Seine at another point near Vernon and are making satisfactory progress. The bridgehead that the Americans already had across the river at Mantes Gassicourt is also being steadily expanded.

Already the French are taking preliminary steps to help France return to normal./ 3,000 tons of food have already arrived in Paris. And the authorities have issued warnings to the people to preserve all evidence of collaboration with the Germans, and so far it seems as if the French are willing to leave punishment of traitors to the courts of law. But Reuter reports from Paris this morning that the stage and film star Maurice Chevalier, who has been known as a collaborator, has been killed by the Maquis.

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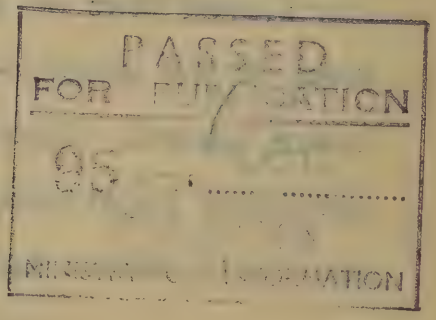
great
American infantry is at the/Cathedral of Notre Dame in the heart of Paris. It's revealed now that the American command gave the French pride of place in entering their own capital, and sent American infantry/ in immediately behind them.

The situation in Paris tonight is not completely clear yet. Small enemy units still seem to be fighting in various parts of the city. But General LeClerc has received the German commander to arrange their surrender.

Radio Paris has been broadcasting all afternoon descriptions of the city going wild with joy — of enthusiastic welcome to the French and American troops. Even while fighting continued in the city and artillery shells and machine gun bullets ripped down the streets the people of Paris stayed out to cheer them men who had come to help them. --- Now the Arc de Triomphe with its tomb of the unknown soldier, and the Champs Elysee are in our hands, and most of the southern section of the city seems completely free of the enemy. ---- General DeGaulle has arrived in Paris; and today General Eisenhower and the French signed the Civil Affairs agreement regulating the position of our troops on the soil of America's oldest international friend.

But all this concentration on the city of Paris isn't slowing down our military operations. South and southeast of the capital American troops are pouring across the Seine — and tonight we know that one spearhead has reached Troyes only about 110 miles from the German border.

And on the lower Seine the odds and ends of ten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German divisions are being beaten to death. British and Canadian and American troops have all joined up west of Elbeuf. The Germans are now left in a small bridgehead on the left bank about 20 miles long and ten miles wide. ---- They're trying to fight a rearguard action to protect their river crossings. They've been partially successful. But they've taken terrific punishment. The Luftwaffe came up to protect the barges down below, and Ninth Air Force Thunderbolts destroyed fortyone with six more probables and 21 damaged. Attacking ground targets the Thunderbolts destroyed 158 trucks and destroyed or damaged 104 tanks.

Where this German retreat is going to stop is your guess as well as mine. There's some talk of the Maginot Line being a major barrier -- but this is probably not the case. Even before I left Germany in 1941 the enemy had begun to dismantle its guns and armor plate for the Atlantic Wall. The Nazis didn't think for a moment they'd ever again be fighting on Germany's western border.

In Rumania tonight the situation becomes even grimmer for the Germans. Rumania has formally declared war on the Germans after units machinegunned Rumanian troops and their Nazi planes bombed Bucharest trying to hit the royal palace. The Russians are reported to have reached the Danube delta and also to have blown bridges over the Pruth BEHIND the rapidly retreating Germans. Bucharest is cleared of German troops and the Germans say tonight that may be lost to them Ploesti next.

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CBS Hottelet 1500 25 August 1944

The Germans are still fighting in Paris. But French Armored Forces have pushed in to support the patriots of the Army of the Interior.

The enemy is deliberately turning the ancient capital of France into a battleground. His purpose is obviously to deny us the use of the great communications facilities that radiate out to northern and eastern France and to the Channel Coast. But with the German army as weak and scattered as it is in France now the enemy can't conduct a military campaign around the city. He's trying to do most damage and cause the greatest delay by operating with smaller forces inside IT. Destruction will mean nothing to these men if it serves their end.

Some word of what is going on inside the capita comes from a radio station operated by the French Forces of the Interior. It describes the Ile de la Cite in the heart of Parisas the main patriot stronghold; and says that fighting is going on in various parts of the city. It says that the Germans have set fire to the Navy Ministry and to their Military Headquarters in the Hotel Crillon

The German High Command communique this afternoon reports violent fighting in the western outskirts of the city after Allied troops broke in with tanks.

Tomore

This agrees with the official announcement in London this morning that the French Second Armored Division under General LeClerc had entered the outskirts of the city at 2:30 this morning. But the French Patriot Radio says that help is much closer

at hand. It said that forward patrols of General LeClerc's forces were in the heart of the city.

Meanwhile there's no doubt that American forces are also advancing to bring help to Paris. We know that more American troops are moving eastward across the Seine above the capital. But we haven't heard any more from General Patton's spearheads that were last reported 70 miles to the southeast. The news from them should be good when it comes.

And we're preparing help for Paris in another way, too. General Eisenhower's Civil Affairs Branch is making every effort, in cooperation with the French authorities, to rush food and relief supplies into Paris. Luckily we've captured large stores of food that the Germans had looted to send to the Reich. These thousands of tons of grain and millions of eggs and other food are now earmarked for Paris. Civil Affairs is also trying to get enough coal together to fill the worst need.

Meanwhile the fighting on the lower Seine has kept on. The Germans are fighting rearguard actions all the way, and their hope is to escape across the Seine. Our troops are pressing them into an ever smaller pocket. On the northern flank the German position along the Touque River is broken and the enemy is moving back to the Risle River. Canadian troops have already pushed on to this river at the town of Brionne. Up at Cricqueboeuf we're now reported to have guns in position to shell LeHavre. And down in a curve from there through liberated Bernay, le Neubourg and up to Elbeuf

CBS Hottelet 1400 25 August 1944

The Germans are still fighting in Paris, but the French Second Armored Division under General LeClerc is moving up to support the French patriots. It was officially announced in London this morning that elements of the Division had entered the outskirts of the city at half past two this morning.

Supreme Headquarters says that the French are meeting considerable opposition now and are having to overcome demolitions, road blocks and mines. It seems that the Germans have been manning these obstructions because the SHAEF report says that we took prisoners. There is no official word covering the time since 2:30 this morning - and the situation then was that the French Armored Division was operating in two columns, fanning out in the western outskirts of the city and still fighting.

That is the official word. Meanwhile AN FFI radio station broadcasting on a Paris wavelength has been giving a slightly different story. Quoting an unnamed American War Correspondent it announced that French Armored Spearheads are deep inside the city, and have been in Paris since yesterday.

But when and where we came in FIRST IS NOW comparatively unimportant. The main tragic fact is that the Germans are deliberately turning the centuries old capital of France into a battlefield-doing it wilfully and from despair. Their purpose is obviously to deny us control of the great communications facilities leading right out into northern and eastern France. But they haven't enough troops to conduct a military campaign, so they're having to rely on smaller units fighting inside the city to hold us up. Destruction of

whole sections of the city means nothing to these desperate men. The radio of the French Forces of the Interior, broadcasting on the Paris wavelenght says that the sky is ablaze in the direction of Neuilly to the northwest and Vincennes to the east. It says that the Germans have set fire to the Navy Ministry and to the Hotel Crillon, which had served the enemy as his military headquarters in France. ~~Fighting is going on for the Prefecture of Police and the City Hall,~~ -- And the Germans have just come out with the ominous report that patriots are barricaded in the Louvre.

Meanwhile we're trying to bring help. There is no new word from General Patton's spearheads that had pushed far out beyond Paris to the south during the past week. But we do know that more American troops are moving across the Seine above the capital.

And already General Eisenhower's Civil Affairs branch is making every effort to rush food and relief supplies into Paris in cooperation with the French authorities. Fortunately there are large stocks of food at hand that we captured from the Germans. The enemy had been accumulating grain and other food at several depots to send to Germany. At one such place near Rennes/I'm told he had thousands of tons of grain and something like eleven million eggs. These are now earmarked for Paris and fleets of trucks are being concentrated specially to bring them in.

The fighting along the lower Seine is still going on. The Germans are fighting hard again to hold enough of a bridgehead on the western bank of the River to get back across the river in some sort of order. But the Allied troops are squeezing them into a smaller and smaller pocket.

Some Germans are managing to get back across the Seine -- and it looks as if they do not intend to stand and fight on the other side. Mosquito pilots last night said they saw a column of German vehicles racing away to the northeast from Gournay. For the first time these vehicles had their lights on bright.

The weather is better today and the air forces will make good use of it to hit the enemy.

On the northern flank the German positions along the Touque River is broken. And the enemy now is falling back on the Risle river. Cabadian troops pressing on their heels have reached the River across from the town of Brionne. And from the sea at Cricqueboeuf down in a curve/through liberated Bernay, le Neubourg and up to Elbeuf we're pressingin.

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CBS Hottelet 0045 25 August 1944

From one end of Europe to the other the Germans are tonight wrestling with crisis. In western France the British and Canadian troops are racing ahead. The German defense is collapsing. One town after the other has fallen - Trouville is bypassed, Pont L'Eveque and Thiberville liberated. We've reached Criqueboeuf at the mouth of the Seine. With American troops on the right flank at Elbeuf, and moving westward, it means that we are on the river on both sides of the enemy -- he's got less than twentyfive miles through which to retreat. And retreat now he must or be destroyed.

There is no new word from the Paris area. The French Second Armored Division has been officially located on the outskirts now since yesterday; but a report from France this afternoon has intimated that it has been much closer to the capital than officially revealed. The full story on this may be out in a few days.

Meanwhile the liberation of Paris is taken as an accomplished fact - even though some German forces are still senselessly fighting in the city and destroying parts of it. The King of England sent a message to DeGaulle tonight rejoicing with the French people in their hour of triumph. The bells of W'minster Abbey rang today in celebration. Foreign Secretary Antony Eden in a broadcast tonight said that the Liberation of Paris by the FFI set the seal on the great victory of Allied arms won in Northwest France. --- Meanwhile the Army's Civil Affairs Branch is making all preparations and the French themselves are to rush into Paris large stocks of grain and other food that we captured before the enemy could send them to Germany.

In Southern France only pockets of resistance remain in the cities of Marseilles and Toulon -- and farther west American forward elements have pushed on to within ten miles of the Rhone River town of Arles. Columbia's Howard Smith reported from Berne this afternoon that our forces, driving north from Grenoble have reached the Franco-Swiss frontier.

And the crisis for the Germans is greater, if anything, in eastern Europe. Here the Russians are pushing down toward the Danube. A German commentator tonight said this deep penetration was due to the chaos caused among Rumanian soldiers by the Rumanian armistice. It looks as if parts of the Rumanian Army are already obeying the orders of their peace government.

Fartherin the Balkans the news is no better for Germany. Bulgaria seems on the verge of following Rumania's example. Hungary is having a political stomach cramp and has dissolved all parties for the sake of unity.

And the Germans seemingly are beginning to evacuate Greece, Bulgaria and southern Yugoslavia. --- That is the Germans' only desperate remedy ---to withdraw, on all fronts; draw the scattered ranks of their Armies closer together to establish a line - any kind of a line. One German broadcaster this afternoon said that in the west this line would be very close to the German border. --- The battle for the inner Fortress of Germany may not be so far away.

Inside the Reich today has brought the German people one step nearer literal slavery. Culture has no place any more, and-

- except for film and radio - has been abolished. The tone of Goebbels propaganda is becoming hysterical -- pleading with everyone to to work and work and remember to be loyal.

He seems to be in doubt.

CBS Hottelet 1500 24 August 1944

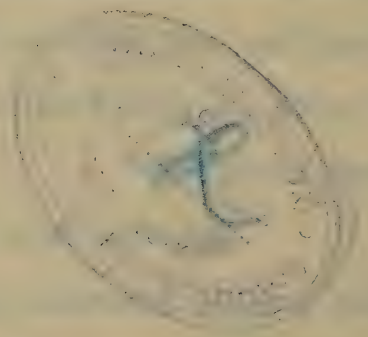
The main news from France so far today comes from the fighting fronts. The encirclement of the remains of Von Kluge's Seventh Army is progressing rapidly. And, with two bridgeheads over the Seine above Paris General Patton's spearheads are pushing east.

There is no news from the French capital itself. Supreme Headquarters says it has no information on the word last night that French troops had entered the city. Here in London we're expecting an announcement on Paris soon.

It may be that news from France will be sparse agah for a while. A report in from the far shore quotes a British staff officer to this effect. He says that for the next two or three days there will be a security silence on events in Normandie while important new moves take shape.

Seventy miles southeast of Paris General Patton's patrols have pushed 15 miles past Sens on the road to Troyes the important road and rail center of Troyes. And other forces are pushing over the two bridgeheads we now have at Fontainebleau and Melun, to strengthen our hold on the entire area. About sixty miles south of Paris we also have a force pushing through Montargis across the river Loing.

But the fate of German military power in western France is being sealed between Paris and the sea, along the lower reaches of the Seine. Here, in the past three days, steady allied pressure and swift movement have cut the German held area down to about half. The most dramatic thrust has been carried out by a great American



armored right hook . After liberating Evreux it drove past Vernon to take Louviers and Elbeuf. Elbeuf is only twentyfive miles from the mouthm of the Seine.

And in the center of the pocket the British forces have also moved swiftly, cutting down the size of the ~~pocket~~ salient. It's only on our left flank, north of Lisieux, where he f.at runs into the sea that the enemy has been trying to make a determined stand. Here the progress of the Canadians and of the Belgians and Dutch ~~under their command~~ against stubborn opposition. has been slow/ Minefields are being met again, and also some tanks.

It looks like a case of history repeating itself. Only a few weeks ago the Germans were also trying to hold an anchor position extending around the town of Caen to the sea. Here they grouped the bulk of their strength and made a stand..... until the American armored fist broke through their left flank and swept around them to encircle them. — Much the same thing is happening west of the Seine, on a smaller scale./ The Americans are nearer and in more concentrated strength - and the Germans today are weaker, and have a river ~~them~~ behind them which they must cross to escape. ~~And the Americans are nearer and in more concentrated strength~~

By taking Elbeuf we've captured ~~them~~ one of the main German organized crossing points. And the other points along the remaining 25 miles to the sea is under air attack.

There's no telling what the Germans will try to do with the elements they do manage to get back across the Seine. One report in from the front this morning is that they are not likely to ~~them~~ try to stand on the Seine after losing most of their heavy

equipment. This report says that the Germans are showing no signs of digging in along the Seine - and that the only places they are reported preparing positions are on the Somme and on the Marne.

But this crisis in western France is only one of several facing Hitler. ~~[illegible]~~ He is forced to find strength somewhere, anywhere, to stop the gap that the ~~[illegible]~~ Rumanian declaration of armistice is tearing in his southern flank.

So far the Germans have not admitted to their own people what has happened with their once strongest ally. The German high command communique and the official German news agency make no mention of the armistice. But German propaganda radio stations are deluging Rumania with appeals to keep on ~~[illegible]~~ fighting alongside Germany. There are appeals to Rumanian honor and lurid pictures of the Bolshevik bogey. And, say the Germans, a new National Government has been formed to carry on the war as before. ~~[illegible]~~ the Germans ask all Rumanians to obey the orders of this government, but don't say who is in it or where it is.

And inside Germany, without mentioning the Rumanian crisis Goebbels is appealing to all German soldiers not to forget their oath of loyalty even in these critical times, and to hold together in the face of danger.

Meanwhile ~~[illegible]~~ King Michael of Rumania has announced the end of dictatorship, and abolished concentration camps, and freed political prisoners and ~~[illegible]~~ and other measures while at the same time proclaiming a curfew /to prevent the Germans from stirring up civil war.

CBS Rattelet 1400 24 August 1944 1-97

There is no fresh news from Paris this morning. Supreme Headquarters says it has no information on the word last night that French troops had entered the city. — The word in London is that an announcement on Paris is expected soon.

There is word, though, of American spearheads pushing way out beyond the city to the south. Already General Patton's patrols are 15 miles beyond Sens heading for Troyes — which puts them some seventy miles southeast of Paris.

There are now two bridgeheads over the Seine south of the French capital -one northeast of Fontainebleau and one at Melun. We now seem to be in greater strength all round the Paris area. At one point - at Montargis, 60 miles south of Paris there is fairly heavy fighting going on the river Loing.

But the center of the decisive fighting in France is still west of the middle Seine. Here there have been dramatic new developments. The trap is being drawn tighter around the remains of the German forces left west of the River. The American troops sweeping around in a right hook have bypassed Vernon, pushed on past Evreux, driven through Louviers and have liberated the town of Elbeuf. We are now only twentyfive miles from the mouth of the Seine. And in the center of the pocket the movement of the British and American forces has also been swift. They have reached the town of Le Neubourg, and pushing on northeastward from Orbec they've reached Thibervilla. — In the last three days our troops have cut the German held area west of the Seine down to about half.

Only on our left flank near is the enemy trying to make a determined stand. With his shoulder to the sea he's been delaying

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the progress of of the Canadian, Dutch and Belgian forces north of Lisieux. Our allies are meeting minefields there again, and some armor. But it's doubtful that this German holding movement will have any beneficial effect for them. It's very much the same picture — on a smaller scale — as it was some weeks ago. ~~There~~ Then also the Germans fought desperately to keep their right flank stable around Caen — and they were overcome by the flood of American armor turning their left flank and sweeping around them. ~~Likewise~~ The main difference today is that the Americans are nearer, probably in more concentrated strength - and the Germans/are much weaker and have a river at their backs over which they must escape.

By taking Elbeuf we've captured one of their main crossing points. And the other points along the remaining 65 miles to the sea are under our air attack.

But this crisis in western France is only one of the major emergencies confronting the enemy today. In southern France and in Poland he's facing great dangers with the bulk of his available forces. And now, with Rumania dropping out of the war, Hitler must try desperately to stop a terrifying gap.

Already the Germans are trying to stir up civil war in Rumania. They're deluging the Rumanians with propaganda broadcasts-telling them that ~~Marshal~~ Antonescu was deposed by traitors, and/~~that~~ calling on them to support a new national government which would continue the war on Germany's side. There is no mention ~~whether~~ of where this so-called new Government is, or who is in it. — Meanwhile King Michael's government is taking all measures to keep order in Rumania and to give help to the Russian

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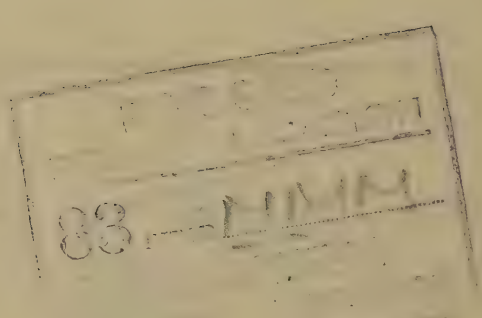
arrests. A curfew has been shortened imposed, and owners of motor vehicles are being called up.

One of the first measures of the new Rumanian Peace government - which includes the liberals John Maniu and Dinu Bratianu -- has been to proclaim the end of dictatorship. Concentration camps are abolished and an amnesty has been declared for all political offences except assassination.



CBS Hottelet 0065 24 August 1944

Rumania has broken away from Germany and has come into the war on the side of the United Nations.

At half past ten Rumanian time tonight Bucharest radio broadcast a Royal Proclamation which announced that the Russian peace terms had been accepted and that an armistice had been concluded with Russia, Great Britain and the United States. King Michael said that the United Nations had guaranteed Rumania's independence and that the army and the entire nation had been ordered to fight anyone who opposed this decision.

The Rumanian king revealed that Russia, Britain and America agreed to scrap the German Dictate of Vienna under which Hungary was given part of Transylvania in August 1940. And then the king declared war on Germany -- he said "At the side of the Allied Armies and with their help we will cross the Vienna frontiers and liberate Transylvania from enemy occupation." -- This is another mortal blow to Germany. It means that Russian troops will be given free passage across Rumania and that Rumanians and Russians together will attack Hungary. The Hungarian Army is pretty much intact but is at best second rate. Germans have no forces left in Europe to meet this threat./The way to Austria lies open./The Balkans are about to be cut off. We can expect the Germans to evacuate the Balkans and Italy to protect the Reich.

The Rumanian action means that Germany is cut off from her main supply of oil. Her troops and air forces in Rumania must escape quickly if at all. Her naval forces in the Black Sea are lost.

Today has been a great day for the Allies in the war

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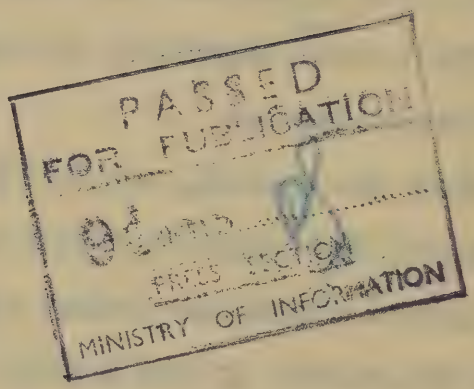
CBS Rotterdat 1500 25 August 1944

has been liberated by French troops.
The French report that Paris ~~[illegible]~~ No more Germans are left in the city — the representatives of Vichy have fled or have been arrested. The announcement comes from ~~the~~ General Koenig - the military governor of Paris and commandant of the Paris area. He says that the French Forces of the Interi r/carried out an order ~~to~~ for a general uprising. The command was given from Algiers last Saturday after consultation with the resistance movement. Immediately, the French say, 50, 00 soldiers of the French armies of the Interior took up arms and began the f ght. They were supported by several hundred thousand unarmed citizens of the capital, and by the Police. — On Sunday the Germans announced that fighting was going on in the streets of the city and the German commander declared martial law - with curfew and other severe measures.

The French say that the Police, who had gone on strike, occupied the police headquarters and the patri ts began to assault the public buildings. For days the Police withstood German attacks against the Isle de la Cite in the Seine in the center of the ~~x~~ city — and/after last night four days of fighting all public buildings were in French hands, and the Germans had gone.

We can't get any confirmation in London for this dramatic news. Military quarters know nothing about it, and are trying to get in touch with/headquarters in France to get details. But - people here are not willing to deny it. It is a reasonable development. ~~The~~ General Eisenhower had planned his operation with an eye to leaving the liberation of Paris to the French forces. That's why ~~the~~ the American First army and the bulk of the third ~~[illegible]~~ bypassed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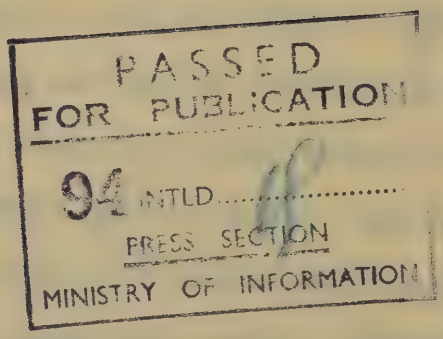
Paris on the west and wheeled around toward the Seine to concentrate on destroying von Kluge's armies. The spearheads that General Patton had sent around ~~xx~~ sixty miles to the southeast of Paris were designed to cut communications and so help the Patriots.

Already the Provisional French ~~xxxxxxx~~ Government in Algiers ~~xx~~ has told the people of Paris that every attempt will be made to bring them food.

Meanwhile, on the main French battlefield west of the Seine, the German armies are threatened with disaster. General Eisenhower is sending three ~~three~~ columns racing forward to surround and hold what is left of the enemy. Up on the North the Canadians - and the Dutch and Belgian forces under Canadian command are pushing forward at an average of ten miles a day. Honfleur has fallen and they're pushing on Trouville. Below them British and Canadian forces have pushed past Lisieux and are ten miles from Vimoutiers. Still farther south the British have rushed ahead to take L'Aigle.

And ~~x~~ on the extreme right, the Americans are the third enveloping arm. They're advancing westward ~~xx~~ between the Eure River and the Seine. The German Communique says this afternoon that they've reached Evreux.

And the Germans are trying to escape. They're headed back across the Seine on anything that will carry them. And behind them they're leaving remnants of their once proud armies to ~~xxxxxx~~ fight rearguard actions in company and battalion strength -- they're living on their nerve --- and it doesn't look as the Germans ~~xx~~ west of the Seine had much longer to live.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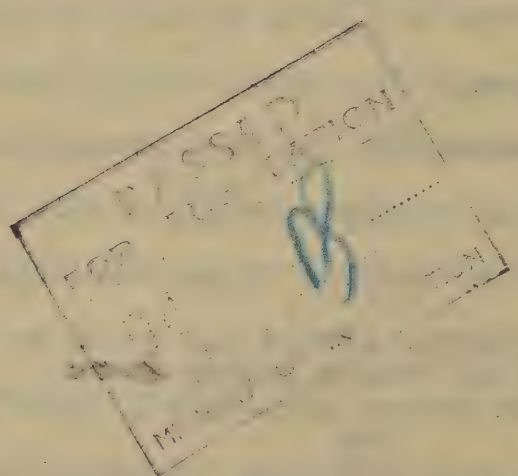
1283

CBS Hottelet 1400 25 August 1944

The French report that Paris is free. They say that there are no Germans left in the city since yesterday. They say their capital was liberated by their own soldiers - the men of the French Forces of the Interior. The news comes from General Koenig, by way of Algiers radio which announces that a general uprising was decreed for last Saturday. On the word of command 50,000 men of the FFI supported by several hundred thousand unarmed patriots went into action -- it was on Sunday that the Germans reported fighting in the streets of the capital. Laval imposed a curfew + other severe restrictions on the 24th

The French say that the Police also supported the uprising. The patriots were soon in control of all public buildings and had fortified themselves on the Isle de la Cite in the Seine in the middle of the city. By yesterday, say the French, all Vichy representatives had fled or been arrested and the Germans had left the capital.

There is no confirmation in London of this dramatic news. But military quarters here, even though they know nothing about it, are unwilling to deny it. It is a reasonable development. It was hoped here that French patriots would be able to liberate their own capital -- that is why General Eisenhower sent the main strength of his army wheeling around toward the Seine to the west of Paris, with the object of destroying the German armies and sent only spearheads out toward the capital itself, on the west and south. We had known that Paris has been comparatively weakly held, ever since General Patton's push to the Seine made it useless as a supply base or communications point with the German armies in western France.



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The Germans have so far said nothing that would confirm the French announcement. Just after noon today, at the same time that Radio Algiers was broadcasting the news of the liberation, the German official news agency said everything was calm in the capital. It said that the severe German measures had restored order -- but that people could be sure when fresh outbreaks of fighting would occur.

It can be expected that the American spearheads that had pushed eastward to Etampes and Pithiviers and Gien, 60 miles south east of Paris, with the intention of cutting the city's communications and helping the forces of the interior -- that these American spearheads may now turn in toward the city itself to join hands with the Patriots. Meanwhile, on the French battlefield, west of the Seine, as the German armies are threatened with disaster, General Eisenhower's encircling movement is increasing this threat with every hour, and von Kluge, with the bulk of his armor and his best divisions left behind him beaten and torn and dead, seems to have given the order for a general retreat over the Seine at 20 organized crossing points down the river from Paris. The Germans are getting across on anything that will carry them - they're using barges and some of the landing craft that they hoped would take them to England in 1940. They're trying to get across on floats and pontoons and inflated rubber boats. -- This movement has mainly been taking place by night, because the weather has improved again and our airplanes can strike accurately by day. The enemy has concentrated vicious flak to protect himself - and the Luftwaffe has sent in fighter planes in greater strength than it's done in several weeks -- And further back, the Germans are going through the motions of org-

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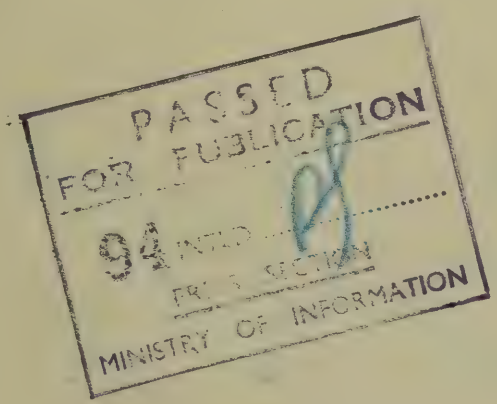
anizing rear guard actions -- like the good soldiers they are ---. But it's instinct and discipline alone that keeps them going. They're being swamped.

The great Allied encirclement is proceeding in three arms. Up on the north the Canadians are averaging ten miles a day and have advanced beyond Deauville toward Trouville. Below them the British, cleaning up in Lisieux have pushed on from Orbec and have taken L'Aigle. And on the right flank General Bradley's American forces have pushed on northwest from Dreux to take Nonancourt and threaten Evreux.

It can be said today for the first time that von Kluge's armies are being destroyed as modern fighting forces.



0636

CBS Hottelet 1500 22 August 1944

General Eisenhower's forces are moving ~~forward~~ forward on both flanks this afternoon -- and it looks as if ~~the~~ another, even greater enveloping movement is in the making. The objective seems to be the destruction of all German forces left west of the Seine -- the elements of the German Seventh Army and of the German Fifteenth Army that came down from the Channel Area to reinforce them.

The latest word comes from the American right flank. Here our forces have started a strong offensive along the left bank of the Seine and are headed downstream toward the sea. At the same time the Canadian left flank, pushing along the sea coast and parallel to it, is also headed for the Seine and the German rear.

~~But, at the same time,~~ There's evidence that this operation is being fought out against an enemy who is by no means completely and definitely beaten. The Germans are fighting skilfully and stubbornly. But the initiative is in our hands, and we're forcing them to repeat the same defensive tactics that they used with only partial success in the great pocket west of Falaise. Already there are signs that ~~the~~ von Kluge is placing his forces to keep apart the jaws of this new trap. American forces pushing north and west from Dreux are meeting firm resistance - and the Canadians and British (WHO'VE TAKEN DOZULE AND GACE AND ARE MENACING LISIEUX) are fighting with stubborn German rearguards.

And, in the center, between these two arms, von Kluge is massing what seems to be the bulk of his waning strength -- just the way he did a couple of weeks ago between Vire and Mortain. The situation here in the center is an interesting one. The focal point is just ~~west~~

northeast of Trun. Here, separated by a British and American barrier, are the German forces still in the socalled Falaise trap, and the ones that have escaped. On Sunday and yesterday they both threw themselves against the Allied wall and some trapped elements escaped. These attacks have not been repeated today, and it looks as if the Germans are regrouping and reforming what they have. A report from the front this morning says that Von Kluge has managed to concentrate a fairly large, organized force in the area of Vimoutiers. -- German army organization is flexible enough to allow the most scattered forces to be lumped together on the spur of the moment into socalled battle groups around a single leader. This takes skill and discipline - which the Germans in western France still have.

Inside the Falaise trap the German position, pretty hopeless at best is becoming more miserable. Short of fuel, despite attempts to drop gasoline by air; their transport shot up; the Germans are beginning to set fire to their tanks to prevent them from falling into our hands. The remainder of the trapped forces are milling around in the muddy, rainsoaked ground of the Gouffern forest and the Fueillet wood. Correspondents at the front paint a dreary picture of roads littered with smashed and burned out, rainsoaked vehicles. But -- in spite of this general misery and/our constant artillery fire there is still no mass surrender. The trap is being liquidated in small groups. But it is being liquidated. 30,000 prisoners have been taken out of it so far.

We don't know any more about the German movement back across the Seine. Low cloud and rain grounded our air force

yesterday, and the weather isn't much better today.

This pincer movement west of the Seine isn't the only iron General Ike has in the fire. The American Third Army's bridgehead across the Seine at Mantes is being reinforced and widened. The security curtain is still down on this sector - but it's obvious that another major threat to the Germans is in the making. But, there's no point in beingover-optimistic. We don't know how strong these forces are or how far they've gone. They're reported this morning to be heading toward Beauvais. At any rate it's way too soon to speak of the encirclement of the German forces on the Channel Coast, or of drive toward Belgium and Holland.

There's no fresh news about Paris this afternoon. It seems as if General Eisenhower is concentrating on destroying the German field armies. The forces that he sent out from his extreme right flank in the direction of Paris were probably designed to throw the Germans off the track as to where the main blow was going to fall.

8°1 - 8°4

CBS Hottelet 1400 22 August 1944

The Battle of the middle Seine is becoming somewhat clearer. And it looks more and more as if General Eisenhower is proceeding toward another encirclement of all German forces left west of the river. News comes from the front this afternoon that American forces have launched a strong offensive along the left bank of the Seine and are heading downstream toward the sea. At the same time the Canadian forces moving along the coast and farther inland are also headed toward the Seine, STILL SOME 30 MILES AWAY. if all goes well another pocket is in the making for the Germans.

Meanwhile General Patton's forces across the Seine at Mantes Gassicourt are reported to be heading in the direction of Beauvais. But we don't really know how far they've gone or how strong they are - and to speak of them already menacing the German troops on the Channel coast or threatening to cut off the Germans from escape into Belgium is looking pretty far into the future. Still, General Paton is worth keeping an eye on.

General Eisenhower is keeping his feet well on the ground, and seems to be concentrating on destroying the German field armies. It must have been a temptation for him to run around right end just a little farther and capture Paris - but he probably felt it wasn't worth while dispersing his strength. Even so, the [Right] forces that he sent out in the direction of Paris helped for days to confuse his real intentions -- and, with the help of the French patriots, they may still do something about the weakly held French capital.

But, one thing emerges from today's reports - and that

is that the Germans are not yet completely and definitely beaten. American forces pushing north and west of Dreux are meeting firm resistance between Dreux and Verneuil. They've identified units of the German 15th Army here, that have been brought down from the Pas De Calais area. And farther westward in the area of Vimoutiers, the Germans have managed to scrape together a fairly large, organized group. This group is composed of elements that escaped from the Falaise pocket and reinforcements that came to them from the north. And this is a fighting force.

It's indicative of the enemy's skill and discipline that he's managed to take soldiers that have escaped our trap - beaten and battered, put them together into a pick-up team and keep on fighting. This is no new device. The Germans have done it in Russia and Italy - whipping replacements at railroad stations and headquarters staffs and other military odds and ends together into so-called Kampfgruppen or battlegroups.

Of course there's no doubt that it's essentially a losing battle. Many more Germans are caught and held in the Falaise trap than have managed to escape. Already the number of prisoners has reached 30,000. But even now there is no sign of mass surrender - the enemy is giving up individually or in small groups. And, under intense artillery fire, sizeable elements of resistance are milling around on the rainsoaked, soggy ground of Gouffern forest and Fueillet wood. They're growing weaker, and the breakthrough attempts of Sunday and yesterday have sofar not been repeated today.

How much longer von Kluge can keep the bulk of his forces in this area remains to be seen. Already the British and Canad-

adians are advancing on their flank. The British have taken the town of Caen, and are threatening Lisieux/the Canadians have taken Dozule and are pushing on to Pont l'Eveque. And even Dutch troops - pushing ahead right along the coast toward the mouth of the Seine are on the outskirts of Houlgate. And always, on the other flank is the American menace.

The Germans are getting one good break, though. The weather over the battle area is terrible. Yesterday clouds and rain reduced air activity to the lowest point since D day - and today there's no sign that it's much better.

CBS Hottelet 0045 22 August 1944

Reports from the front tonight say that American spearheads have crossed the Seine southeast of Paris,. This news comes after last night's reports that forces were operating near Melun and Fontainebleau. This means that the Seine has now been crossed both above and below the French capital.

It remains to be seen which of these thrusts bears the main allied weight. We can't get any official clarification here in London - the Germans would be glad to get an official picture from us. But indications are that our main strength is probably at the crossing point at Mantes, downriver from Paris.

And this would be logical - because our main job in OUR MAIN JOB IN France, obviously, is to destroy German fighting strength. And that can be done best by bypassing Paris on the west and cutting in out toward the coast. NOW Paris itself is not strongly held by the Germans. It may be that we will cut most of its lines of communications and just leave it to the Maquis, and SO give the French the opportunity to recapture their own capital. Already tonight the Germans report that French patriots are fighting German street patrols in the fifth arrondissement.

General Patton's forces pouring over a pontoon bridg to the right bank of the Seine at Mantes Gassicourt are pushing ahead tonight against practically no resistance. We don't know in which direction they're moving, but the Germans say they're fanning out.

Chances are we'll be hearing much more of this sort of cooperation in the remaining battles for France -- with us driving ahead, enveloping the enemy, cutting his supply lines, and leaving the Maquis to do the mopping up. We'll move toward Germany a lot quicker

that way.

The problem of cleaning up in France and moving toward Germany swiftly was on General Montgomery's mind this evening, too, when he had the BBC rebroadcast an order of the day to the Allied forces in France. The General said that we had won a definite (COMPLETE) and decisive victory in ~~France and Normandie~~ NORTHWEST FRANCE; and that the ~~xx~~ end of the war was now in sight. He appealed to the ~~troops~~ to drive for Germany in record time.

And over ~~in Germany~~ (TO THE WEST) the British and Canadian and American forces seem to be doing their best to do just that. Along the coast the Canadians have moved ahead into the village of Cabourg. Farther inland the Germans report that they've entered the important rail and road center of Lisieux. ~~And further xxxxxx~~

More to the south ~~xxxxxx~~ allied forces are still fighting to liquidate the Germans in the Falaise trap. Already we've ~~x~~ taken ~~x~~ some 25,000 prisoners out of this trap, including three Generals. But the Germans are still fighting hard. They made another attempt today to rescue their troops ~~in~~ the pocket. It flared up into a first-rate battle, with tanks trying to push through our ring. There were casualties on both sides. In London we're told that the German attempt ~~xxx~~ failed, but that they did manage to get some of their armor out.

The weather has been terrible over the entire battle area - ten tenths cloud and a ceiling of 200 feet. It was practically impossible for our planes to operate. There's no doubt that this respite from incessant air bombardment was welcome to the Germans fighting in the pocket and ~~th~~ those retreating across the Seine.

INSERT CBS HOTTELET 0045 22 August 1944

And ~~already~~ the French ~~have~~ TONIGHT appointed one of their own Generals to be military governor of Paris when the city is liberated -- he is General Koenig, the hero of Bir Hakeim.

0425

CBS HOTTELET 1500 21 August 1944

The picture in western France this morning is a confused one - with the German and allied armies at each other's throats in swift movement and bitter attack and counterattack.

Let's look at the whole broad thing for a moment before we examine the various elements. General Eisenhower is using his tremendous strength to push forward in various directions. At one point he's driven an American jab (the Germans say it's a Canadian) right across the Seine and fanning out on the other side. His left arm is pushing ahead, more slowly, toward the Seine also. ~~It looks as if General Ike is carrying out another great enveloping movement.~~

In between these two arms the Germans are both attacking and retreating -- they're attacking fiercely and skilfully to rescue their trapped divisions in the Falaise pocket, and at the same time von Kluge is sending whatever of his forces he can spare back to escape across the Seine. He badly needs the troops that are held in the Falaise trap, but he also has to keep an eye out to avoid the arms that may once again close behind him.

But this is by no means all of what's going on in western France today. Because General Eisenhower's right flank is sending out numerous reconnaissance patrols in the direction of Paris. And inside the capital french patriots have begun to fight in the streets .

How this complex picture will turn out is anyon'es guess - at any rate events are moving swiftly. It was confirmed in London this morning that American troops at Mantes Gassicourt - which is some 27 miles downriver from Paris - have crossed the Seine.

The official confirmation goes farther to say that we 're established on the bank in substantial strength.

The Germans supply more detail - they say that we have tanks across the river and that we're already fanning out in both directions along the river bank.

Meanwhile Canadian troops, pushing their way along the seacoast and farther inland have come to within three miles of Lisieux. This thrust may develop into the left arm of an envelopment.

As far as actual fighting goes, though, there's no doubt that the critical point is between the right and left arms, in the area around Trun. Here von Kluge is attacking the British and American forces in an attempt to break through the wall of the Falaise pocket and get his trapped divisions out. The battle yesterday. Inside the trap the elements of five armored divisions massed in the east and hit at our ring. At the same time thousands of infantrymen with tank support outside the trap hit the outside of the ring. Reports from our correspondents at the frontsay that these attacks were broken up. The forces inside the trap were shelled, bombed, mortared and machinegunned unmercifully while allied fighters and fighter bombers strafed and bombed the attacking forces outside. This afternoon the German High Command communique says that the troops inside the trap succeeded in fighting their way out and have reestablished contact with German forces outside. -- Whether this is true or not it certainly demonstrates that the German forces in we stern France are still a fighting power.

CBS Hottelet 1400 21 August 1944

It's officially confirmed in London this morning that American troops are across the Seine in substantial strength, at Mantes Gassicourt. The official announcement goes farther to say that we are established on the other bank.

The Germans give more detail on this operation - they say that American tanks are across the Seine and that we are already beginning to fan out in both directions along the river bank -/downriver to the Northwest and upriver in the direction of Paris. The Germans say heavy fighting is going on at the crossing, and continue to talk of/Paratroop formations. allied

This crossing of the Seine in strength is the most important of the three distinct operations that General Eisenhower is carrying out in western France. may be im-

There have been dramatic developments, though, in the other two in the last 24 hours. We have reconnaissance forces in the outskirts of Paris - and in the capital itself French patriots are reported to be fighting in the streets. There's no telling whether the Americans intend to push on into Paris and take the city, or whether the plan is to send feelers out around it in all directions and keep on the pressure while the bulk of our force comes to grips with the remaining German armies farther westward. Paris itself does not seem to be strongly defended, and there's no sign that our main push is in that direction.

Meanwhile inside the city word comes from German source that patriots are fighting in the streets. The enemy says that our reconnaissance elements in the Paris suburbs have been supporting

the patriots, but doesn't say how. There is no doubt that the Germans are very worried about the situation in the French capital - where they're already having to resort to extreme measures to retain control. Just before midnight last night the German commandant of Paris openly declared war on the patriots in the city, and said that their revolt would be ruthlessly suppressed. He proclaimed a curfew between 9 pm and 7 in the morning; forbade the use of highways in the western and southern parts of the city; closed all cinemas, theaters and other places of entertainment. And, in a measure that recalls old Czarist Russia, he ordered all windows to bekept shut, and all doors and portescocheres to be unlocked and remain ajar.

In the third part of General Eisenhower's operations in the west the German armies still west of the Seine are taking terrific punishment. The troops caught in the Falaise pocket are now crammed together in an area of no more than sixty square miles. Every inch of the trap is now under artillery fire. Correspondents in the area are using all their adjectives to describe what they call "this cauldron of death". They describe the ceaseless fire, with artillery, bombs, rockets, mortars and machine guns hammering a terrible barrage; flame throwers and incendiary projectiles are being used to smoke out the defenders. And farther eastward down the Seine from Vernon the Germans are sending some of their forces back across the river in an attempt to escape. They're swimming at some places, using pontoons and floats and hundreds of barges - some of them said to be barges that the enemy had brought to LeHavre originally for the invasion of England.

Here our airforces are pounding them as they fill the roads toward the river and as they try to move acorss. Planes dive down to bomb and strafe by night now as well as by day. Last night RAF Mosquitoes dropped flares over the area and then went in at 50 and 100 feet to bomb.

BUT and this is a big but, the Germans are not disorganized, they are certainly not yet destroyed. Instead of fleeing headlong with all his forces - von Kluge is sending whatever he can spare back across the river, and is staying behind with whatever strength he can muster to fight some more. Yesterday he made a strong and courageous bid to rescue his forces trapped in the Falaise pocket. Elements of five armored divisions inside the pocket began an attack northeastward, and at the same time several thousand infantry supported by tanks outside the pocket began an attack southwestward to join hands with them. After fierce fighting, and with the support of our air forces we broke up these attacks.

05:28

CBS Hottelet Admiral 2080 20 August 1944

The Germans this evening report that American tanks are across the Seine River, after airborne and parachute troops had established a bridgehead somewhere between Vernon and Mantes. The enemy says that heavy fighting is in progress at this point.

There's no confirmation in London - and there isn't likely to be under the present policy of secrecy - but a delayed report from this part of the front this evening makes the German story sound logical. A Reuter correspondent said that American forces were stretched along the west bank of the river for miles north of Mantes. Standing on a bit of high ground he said he could see the River's great loop bend - and our air forcees harassing the fleeing enemy on the roads leading to the river, on barges as he tried to get across - and on the roads on the other side.

This part of the Seine is a logical place for a crossing because of the great loop that juts eastward deep into enemy territroy. We'll have to wait for official confirmation before we base too many hopes on the German report.

The Reuter Correspondent said that General Patton's forces had reached the Seine here to cut the escape route of the Germans fleeing eastward toward the River from the Falaise trap. And it looks more as if General Eisenhowers immediate intention is to complete the destruction of Von Kluge's Seventh Army.

Already the Falaise trap is being liquidated. It was revealed in London this evening that the pocket contains the bulk of the combat elements of fourteen divisions and parts of four other

divisions. There is ~~xxxxxxx~~ no more German resistance anywhere west of ~~xhezFaizisexArgentanxready~~ town of Courteilles. and allied forces are meeting up and down the line. British troops joined the Americans in Argentan today. --- But the Germans are still fighting in a smaller pocket between Courteilles and Chambois. There is no sign of mass surrender, and although the British took something like a thousand prisoners today, the Germans still seem to have some striking power left. They are still trying to fight their way out of the encirclement to safety. They withdrew as much as they possibly could from the western part of the pocket and grouped it eastward into a striking force. With this theyhave been ~~fighting~~ northeastward between Trun and Chambois. Tonight it was stated in London that they had made slight progress. --- But German losses have been heavy. Guns, tanks and transport have been abandoned in bulk. One group of 1,000 vehicles jammed together was found in the Gouffern forest north of Argentan.

Still it appears that some ~~Gxxxxxx~~ enemy troops are already getting away. They're reported to be crossing the Seine in fairly considerable numbers at between 12 and 20 organized crossing points downstream from Vernon. They're using barges, pontoons and anything they can lay their hands on - at one point they're said to be swimming the river.

Luckily for them the weather hasn't been very good again today - but even so our lowflying fighters ~~xxxx~~ and fighter bombers have been harassing the enemy. The territory east of the Seine seems to be getting its share of attention too - and fliers

Up on the northern flank of the Normandie front Canadian forces have been pushing along the coastline, but they've also been sending an arm out toward Lisieux to help cut off the German retreat. They're within seven and a half miles of the town, and have captured the town of Livarot.

There's no more word from the eastern flank of the front - the one that runs north from Orleans. The Germans report us at various places in relation to Paris - and have even floated a trial balloon through neutral correspondents in Berlin to the effect that American columns have entered the French capital. This is probably as much to whip up false hopes on our part as it is to get some information where we really are. As far as we can judge from London it looks more as if we were out to wipe out the rest of the German forces within reach rather than rush into Paris.

The Germans have announced that Allied Forces have crossed the middle Seine between Vernon and Mantes. They say that the bridgehead was gained with the help of strong airborne forces. There is no confirmation - or denial - of this report in London.

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retreating Germans. The weather has not been too good yesterday and today - but thousands of German vehicles have been shot up. The Germans on occasion get off the roads and try to escape over open field - but the rain soaked ground bogs them down.

Allied fliers strafing roads are now going down very low to make sure they're not wasting ammunition on vehicles lining the road that have already been destroyed.

CBS Hottelet 1500 21 August 1944

There is no fresh word from the eastern part of the French battlefront this morning. The official communique , still lagging pretty well behind actual events, puts American forces in the vicinity of the Seine at Mantes Gassicourt. The Germans are meanwhile talking of this drive to the Seine as another enveloping sweep.

Allied sources are also keeping completely quiet about Paris - the only word we have about the French capital comes from German and neutral sources. These neutral sources, who aren't in a position to know very much, have American troops in Paris, and others advancing around from Etampes to take Paris from the east. It looks as if Berlin were planting stories on the neutrals to help fish for information.

The hard news from Normandie this afternoon is that the remnants of the German Seventh Army between Falaise and Argentan are now completely trapped. Allied forces from the north and south have met in Chambois, about nine miles northeast of Argentan. And all the while the Allied forces around the pocket are compressing it - punching it like a sandbag. From the north we've pushed into it toward Moutabard, from the south we've jabbed into it as far as Ecouche. But the Germans in the trap are fighting hard -there's no sign yet of a mass surrender. There's no telling at the moment how many Germans are being lost there. /

The German High Command Communique thisafternoon reports that those German units who did get out of the pocket are trying to fight their way out of Normandy back to the Seine. They're having a tough fight, and talk about continuous attacks on their

flanks. Up to the north of them British troops have begun to move along the coast of the Bay of the Seine, heading for the river mouth; and down to the south of them American forces are also pushing toward the Seine -- and it looks very much as if General Eisenhower had another great enveloping movement in mind to destroy all the German forces before they ever get across the River Seine.

It's this possibility that puts all these stories of our being on the verge of sweeping through Paris, into somewhat better perspective. /The city of Paris is a great objective, there's no doubt about that. And if General Eisenhower feels that he has enough troops and supplies to take Paris with one hand while he mops up the remainder of the German army west of the Seine with the other - well, then he 'll take Paris. But he won't charge into the city if it means giving von Kluge even a slightly better ooppor-tunity of getting away. Because with the rest of Von Kluge's armies destroyed we can always walk into Paris.

Here's the way one military observer put it to me:

And a commander whose objectives are as sweeping as General Eisenhower's will probably not scatter his strength for prestige purposes - but will concentrate them for the most important job in hand. That's why, although there's no official reaction at all in London to the German report that we have crossed the Seine - it would not be at all an illogical development, and would explain why we don't seem to be so anxious to take the French capital.

Meanwhile the Allied air forces keep hammering at the

CBS HOTTELET REPORT FROM LONDON 20 August 1944

One of the reasons the American armor in France has gone ahead as fast as it has, is the cooperation it's gotten from the air force. The heavies and the medium bombers have pitched in, and the fighters and fighter bombers, operating from their bases in France have been working their fingers to the bone to help the boys on the ground.

Columbia's Charles Collingwood is roving around the battle area with a recording machine, and he's sent us back some recordings that he's made on the airffeld of one Ninth Air Force Fighter Group. He found out how the men go out after the enemy - not only his fighter planes and bombers and reconnaissance aircraft, but after his tanks and transport, his gun positions and his moving columns. Day after day, in weather that would have been thought unflyable a year ago, these men have scoured the sky behind the enemy lines - from 30,000 feet right down to the ground they've played their position on a victorious team.

Let's pick up Charlie at this fighter group commanded by Col. George L. Wertenbaker Jr. of Chralottesville, Va.

PICK UP " This is Charles Collingwood at a 9AF fighter base..

END CUE "They play poker in three different currencies and it usually winds up in a scramble."

But, just so it's quite plain that this occasional fun only relaxation from a lot of hard work, Charlie gives us a quick look behind the scenes. Here he has one of the armorers - one of the men who load the bombs and take care of the guns - tell how much work goes into putting the sting into a fighter plane.

PICK UP "We're at a very busy fighter base..."

END CUE " According to the pilot's desire, according to how he wants his guns to fire"

Then Charlie Collingwood brings a man to the travelling microphone in Franc who's delivered quite a few of the Sergeant's bullets and bombs -- and done it very successfully. His specialty is busting tanks ----

PICK UP " The Group Operations Officer, Maj. Royal baker..

END CUE " Usually we go right on down to the deck."

But even if all the emphasis is on destruction - on bombing and strafing and bombing, bleeding the enemy white and ploughing up the roads of escape along which he could hope to totter back - even so these Ninth Air Force fighters are willing to go through enemy fire to help their own men. Listen ...

PICK UP " These Thunderbolts are really maids of all work."

END CUE " Then we got a radio message that they had picked up the plasma."

Captain Updike wasn't hit in this mission of mercy that took them right along the front line; but his wing man, Willard Haines, got ten holes in his plane from smallarms fire. No glory in this sort of thing, but loads of satisfaction.

Think of these 9th Air Force boys the next time the communique says - "Our fighter bombers attacked enemy concentrations and harassed his lines of retreat."

We return you now to CBS in New York.

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CBS Hottelet 0045 16 August 1944

The Germans are fighting hard in Western France tonight - and there's no doubt that they're delaying our progress and keeping the situation in a fluid state.

The Falaise gap is still open - and it's only by fighting for every yard that we've narrowed it down a bit today to beteen ten and twelve miles. The Canadians are reported to have pushed on to within a mile of Falaise, and to have taken the high ground to the north. If this is true they could have the remaining primary German escape roads under visual artillery fire.

The Americans, trying to fight their way north to close the trap from Argentan are now fighting German tanks - and their progress has been extremely slow.

The Germans are still concentrating on keeping the trap open, and have their best forces concentrated around its jaws. Whether or not they have succeeded in moving the main part - or even a large part - of their ~~5th and 7th Armies~~ forces out of the trap we just don't know. There was no largescale movement observed on the roads today.

Tonight the whole front there is under water, after the worst thunderstorm in years - and the first effect will be to make the situation even less clear.

Bust Today was a terrific day in the air - the 8th Air Force and the RAF struck their fiercest blows so far at air bases in Belgium, Holland and Germany. -- And that's a fact of fundamental importance --- our air supremacy can clear up tough ground situations.

The next 72 hours in France should bring more clarity -- and severe blows to the German armies.

CBS Hottelet 0045 15 August 1944

The Falaise gap is still being narrowed down, both from the north and from the south. The latest word - but this xis not official - is that it is now only about 13 miles wide.

We are still not being told where the American column is, that's been striking northard from Alencon -- but ~~it~~ German reports tonight put it north and northwest of Argentan.

Meanwhile the Canadians are moving down doggedly from the north. They launched their attack at noon today behind the thunderous barrage of more than 4,000 tons of high explosives dropped by more than 750 heavy bombers. They moved forward at several points along the sixteen miles front curving around north of Falaise. Tonight one of their spearheads is reported abut four miles from the town.

But the Germans are fighting doggedly - especially here. There is no word today of their forces flooding out to escape through the Falaise gap. Medium bomber and fighter bomber pilots sent out to attack road transport didn't see anywhere near as much today as they did yesterday. ~~fxxkmaksxtxgxifxthxxtx~~ This doesn't alter the situation -- the Germans are still in a trap and are still trying to get out of it -- but they're showing all the skill of the thoroughbred soldier. Instead of rushing for the jaw of the trap all at once and spilling out into not much safer ground beyond, they seem to have pulled out units ~~xxxxxx~~ hold apart the jaws of our trap. ~~farxxx~~ mainly to ~~xtxxxngxkxxxtkxxixxhxxkt~~ They are to provide the cover for the units behind them to move, who will in turn try to move ahead ~~xxxxx~~ and so on. Von Kluge is trying to build his own tunnel through

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our encirclement, using his/forces the way you turn a stocking inside out. --- That explains why the greatest advances, apart from the southern arm through Alencon, has been over at the western tip of the German salient. Here we've ~~xxxx~~ progressed toward Vassy and Tanchebray. We've advanced six miles from Mortain to ~~xxxx~~ reach Ger and we're in Domfront. But the Germans have been pulling out
mainly
ahead of us - and we're ~~xxxx~~ advancing to keep on enough heat so the Germans don't pull out faster.

In the long run, we here in London feel sure that this skill won't save the Germans from a major defeat. We've got
~~xxx~~ this afternoon General
too much strength - ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Bradley adultted that the Americans have another Army, the Third, fighting in France. The Germans say it's commanded by General George Patton — but this is not confirmed ~~xxx~~. And the presence of the Second French Armored Division
on the soil of France
~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ under General LeClerc is also announced today. And more stuff is pouring in day and night. But our command is also showing more skill in the employment of more men than American Generals have ever handled in history -- and you can look for some more surprises and more thrills before this campaign is over.

But, just to show you that we're going to have to outslug and outthink the enemy, here's something that happened this afternoon. Our ~~xxxxxx~~
heavy bombers and fighters
attacking southwest Germany met up with an entirely new type of German airplane -- a jetpropelled ship. They had already met the ~~Me 163, the rocketdriven fighter - this seems to have been the~~ Me 262. ~~This plane is said to look like a twoengined plane, except that its's got jetpropulsion instead of ordinary engines. It is said to~~ fighter fly more than 525 mph -- and thus outstrip anything we've got.

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PRESS SECTION
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5 day's combat use broken up with northern side sinking.

It shows no real gain minute on count of present
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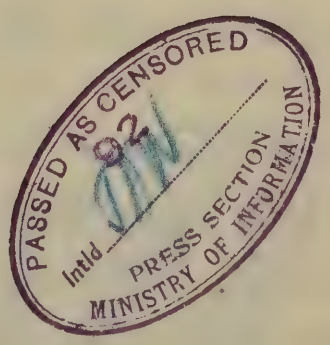
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The Germans are trying to pull their forces out of the Allied trap in western France today. Since yesterday afternoon German infantry, armor, motor transport, horsedrawn equipment have been crowding the few remaining roads that lead out through the Falaise gap. Something like 100,000 men and several hundred tanks are trying to reach what they think will be safer territory.

And all this time - during every hour of daylight these choked roads have been bombed, machinegunned and hit by the rockets of all the medium and fighter bombers we could put into the air. Correspondents at the front have described the bombs cascading down from planes glistening in the sun. And the Germans only protection has been the dust of their escape.

The Germans indicate today that they not only have their Seventh Army in this threatened area, but also their Fifth. We don't know much about this Fifth Army except that it was raised in the west at the beginning of the war and then disbanded. But this threat to two German armies puts the Allied operation into proper focus.

Meanwhile the gap through which the Germans are trying to escape is being narrowed down. The American column pushing north from Alencon is still operating behind a security curtain -- but the Ger ans have made several admissions that reveal its progress. For one thing the enemy says that it's pushed on several miles beyond Alencon toward Falaise. And another enemy report says that already Alencon is a base for strong concentrations, not only of American armor and motorized equipment but also of our infantry. There are now only about thirty miles of escape gap left for the Germans,

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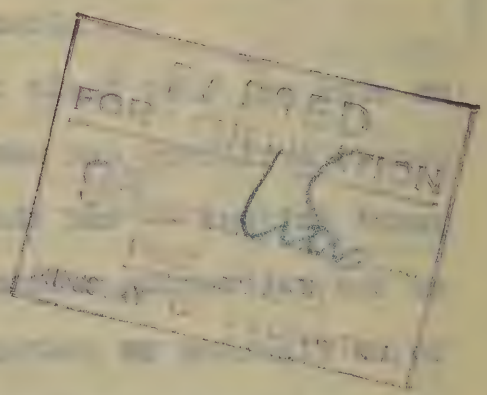
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

and with this American strength in the area we can be sure that its in the process of being narrowed down - right now.

Up on the northern jaw of the trap the Germans have been fighting desperately to prevent the British and Canadians from advancing on Falaise. So far they've been successful -- but they haven't been able to prevent our Allies from cleaning out a German salient between the Orne and Laize rivers. Here, British and Canadian and Polish forces now combined/and with German pockets cleared up are putting on increasing pressure tonight. -- There's no doubt that our Allies are as anxious to close the last exit of German excape as we are - and if the going has been slower for them than it has for us it's because they're bucking long-prepared German positions, and the main body of the German forces.

Although things are bad for the Germans, there is no sign yet that their withdrawal is a rout. Correspondents say that massed artillery and some tank formations are fighting determined rar-guard actions -- and that supplies for these troops continue to go in as the retreating columns seek a way out. Everywhere the Germans seem to be fighting courageously. At the bottom of the bag, between Vire and Mortain we have advanced on a wide front, taking the town of Sourdeval -- this is as much German withdrawal, though, as it is our advance.

The Germans are racing against disaster. A message from Von Kluge's headquarters says that the decisive battle of the entire invasion campaign may take place in the near future. And this seems to be true no matter what happens between Vire and Falaise. Our command is not losing sight of the possibility that the Germans may



rescue some of their forces from the Allied trap. But rescue is hardly the right word - because they will then be caught this side of the Seine. Already General Eisenhower is taking steps to make sure that the German Figth and Seventh armies are caught and crushed in western France. He is trying to make the line of the Seine impassable both to the retreating Germans and to any reserves they have onnthe other side. Today more than 1250 heavy bombers blasted highways and railroads on both sid s of the Seine from Paris down to its estuary --- certainly it/looks as if the Allied Pincer movement is double barrelled.

The Germans yesterday held a show of strength in Paris. What is described as a great many troops in full field equipment paraded through the streets. The purpose, as the Germans explain it, was to show the Parisians who was still in charge. Apparently the Parisians have been getting more and more exuberant with the approach of the Allies, and florists have been doing big business sellingmflowers to be thrown at our troops as they enter the capital.

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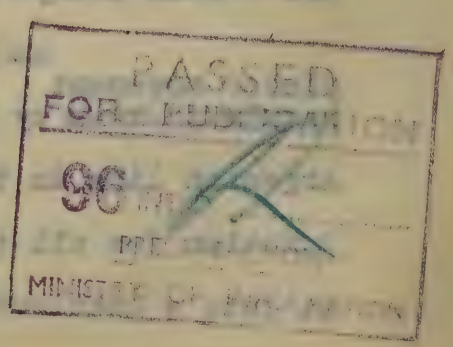
The picture in northwest France tonight is one of a race against time - a race in which the existence of the German Seventh Army is at stake. The British and Canadian forces are pushing down from the north - and the American columns are driving up from the south in an attempt to catch the bulk of the German Seventh Army in a trap. And the Germans are doing their best to get out.

Let's look at our side of the picture first. The British and Canadians and Poles pushing down toward Falaise haven't made any appreciable progress forward, but they have strengthened their thrust by removing a German salient and by combining their forces. From now on when they push it'll be together.

The situation on the American/southern pincer is unclear. There is no hard news of where we're going exactly or how far we're gone. And for the next couple of days, at least, we won't be hearing -- because we have every reason to believe that the Germans don't know how strong we are or what our immediate objective is; and we're not going to give him any tips. -- Tonight the Germans report that American forces have crossed the River Sarthe and are fighting northeast of Alencon. One German correspondent says we are a few kilometers north of the town. This is quite possibly true, and would mean that the German escape gap had been narrowed still further to about 35 miles

And this evening our medium bombers took a hand in the pincer movement by bombing road and rail junctions in the Argentan area. Argentan lies in the middle of the German escape route - and is the junction for all the main roads out of the trap. We're trying to turn it into a bottleneck.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Now, the enemy for his part is doing three things -- he's trying to hold the jaws of the trap open, he's trying to pull his forces out of the trap -- and he's trying to rush outside help into the battle zone. He's not having much luck at any one - but he's fighting with skill and courage. The jaws are closing; and for another thing he's having trouble pulling out of the trap. His forces deep inside it, between Vire and Mortain are having to stand and fight, and they're strong forces. Ed Murrow was over that part of the front in a Marauder this evening and he reports lots of heavy Flak from the dual purpose 88 mm guns. The Americans and British in this sector are pressing the Germans hard - not giving them the breathing spell they've got to have for a quick withdrawal. -- And as far as bringing reserves and reinforcements into the battle zone from across the Seine - well, listen to the job our fighter bombers did northeast and south of Paris today. By seven this evening they had destroyed or damaged 325 locomotives, 2800 railroad cars and 400 army trucks. In addition they blew up a 60 car ammunition train. They and the heavies have been hitting marshalling yards, bridges and tunnels all day. And just to top this blow to German transport one fighter hit three truck-loads of German bicycles.

The Germans are tonight saying that the Americans are stretching their reserves thin -- going too many places at once, that they won't be able to stand the pace. Well, I remember the French saying just about the same thing about the German advance in 1940. It's the sort of thing the losing side generally says.

But we're not going to win in France today because we want to. The next week is going to be very important in the battle for France and it's going to take heavy fighting and steady supply to come out on top. The prize will be the German Seventh Army and Paris.

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CBS Hottelet 1400 12 August 1944

The Germans report this morning that American tanks are now attacking Alencon. The enemy says that our armored forces are operating under a tremendous air canopy, and are pushing northward along both sides of the road that leads from Le Mans to Alencon. For the first time the Germans openly speak of General Eisenhower's operation as a gigantic pincer movement.

If this German report is true - and there's no reason to believe it's not - American troops have narrowed down the escape gap of the bulk of the German Seventh Army to almost half. There are now less than forty miles between the American spearheads pushing north and the British and Canadian forces fighting their way south in the Falaise area to meet them.

There is no confirmation of this German report in London -- but then, that's not strange. We've noticed that - just as in Brittany - whenever we're moving fast, and whenever this fast movement is being carried out alongside other diversionary columns pushing out in other directions; under these circumstances our Supreme Headquarters is perfectly willing to let the communique lag behind the actual events. Because, with our swift movement and with our air supremacy, the Germans must find it very difficult to get an exact picture of the battlefield. It's more than likely that, in addition to pushing northward, General Bradley sent forces out from Le Mans in other directions - northeast and toward Paris, eastwards toward Orleans and southeast toward Tours. It must have cost the Germans many precious hours to recognize that the main thrust would be aimed northwards.

Meanwhile the Germans are doing what they can with their limited strength. They've shown great skill north of Falaise in regrouping their defenses - and have brought the Canadian advance, temporarily at least, to a standstill. Which means that the northern jaw of the ~~xxxx~~ allied trap is not closing. In this area the Germans are counterattacking repeatedly - whenever they see an opening. ~~Xxxxx~~ They're showing discipline and leadership of a high order.

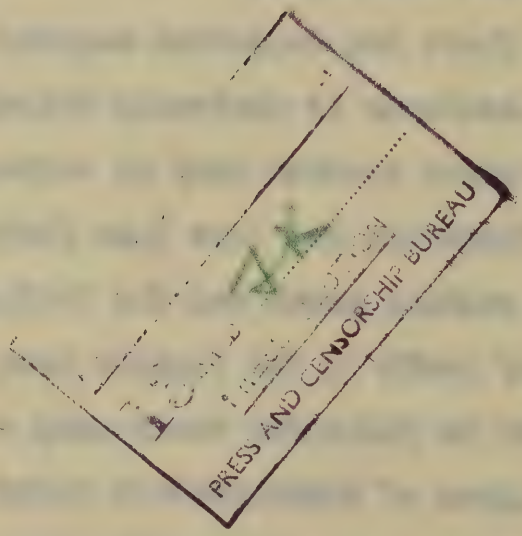
It's the same at the bottom of the trap - almost forty miles to the west in the curve that runs between Mortain and Vire. Here today American troops are fighting their way forward slowly - the town of Mortain is in our hands again; and we've made advances up to abput two thousand yards at several points in the area. ---- And ~~xx~~ the picture of what's been happening in the confused and bitter fighting in that sector is begoming a bit clearer. We've wondered why the Germans should be fighting so stubbornly, and not pulling out even though forty miles in their rear a trap was gradually closing around them. The answer is that they had no choice. To pull out of a threatened position - especially when that position's in a salient - you've got to be able to disengage your main body and fight with rear-guards. Well, here, it seems American and British pressure has been too great - the German main force couldn't be disengaged - it had to be flung against threatened points again and again to prevent the whole position from collapsing. --- So, today, although we don't underestimate the work of our All's the situation in western France is one that reflects great credit on your soldiers and on the men who lead them. All the more so because ~~xxxxx~~ the enemy they're beating is still tough nd skilful.

CBS Hottelet 1500 12 ugust 1944

The German High Command communique this afternoon reports that bitter fighting is developing for the town of Alencon. An earlier enemy report had said that American tanks had been pushing northward along both sides of the road that leads from LeMans to Alencon. I think we can accept this German report as true - despite the fact that there's no confirmation from Allied soucres. Our Supreme Headquarters has deliberately been letting its announcements behind the actual events so as not to help the Germans getting a clear picture of the operation.

There are dangerous moments still to comexx in this area. General Eisenhower is obviously trying to close a trap around the bulk of the German Seventh Army in western France. With our troops around Alencon there are now less than forty miles between the American spearhedas pushing north and the British and Canadian forces fighting their way south in the Falaise area to meet them. — We can expect the Germans to fight for their army - stubbornly and cunningly. But, with their lines of communication under bombardment, and their roads cut by our fast spearheads; with their reconnaissance aircraft wiped from the sky the enemy must have a confused and fragmentary picture of the fighting. So, if news from official Allied sources lags behind events or doesn't give much detail in the next important week it's because our command doesn't want to help the enemy.

There have been other steps taken to keep the Germans in the dark. Apparently before the main column turned northward General Bradley sent out other columns pushing out along the main roads radiating from LeMans. Some went on northeastward toward Paris -

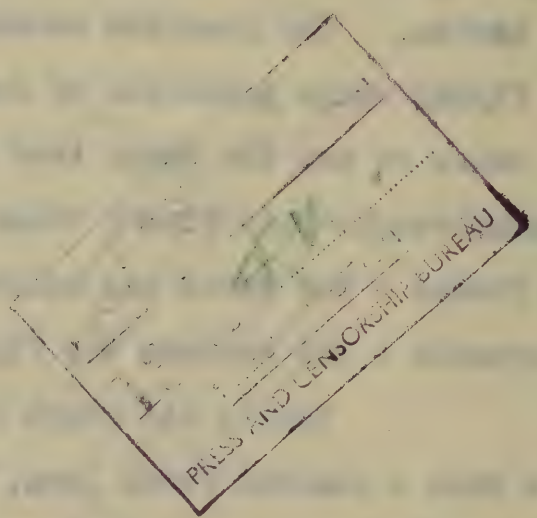

PRESS AND CENSORSHIP BUREAU

others looked as if they'd continue on in the directions of Orleans and Tours. Our command undoubtedly has similar tricks still up its sleeve.

One fact emerges from all this that's worth elaborating on. To carry out diversions and deceptions of this sort the commander in chief must have sufficient forces at his disposal. And to get enough troops together as far around as LeMans and Alencon, and keep them supplied had meant the establishment of a superb supply system. The American command in Western France is working on the flying wedge principle of football. We saw that in Brittany first, where we saw the whole team start off on the run to complete the breakthrough. This flying wedge in France is composed of the fast ground forces - the tanks and halftracks and motorized infantry; and of the airforces - the mediums the fighters and the fighter bombers.

That's all right for a breakthrough - but a battlefield is more than a hundred yards long. This spearhead has to be supplied every inch of the way. It must keep up its strength to be able to fight for its life at any moment, and to hold what it's gained. So General Bradley's flying wedge consists not only of the team - the men who fight - but also of the reserves on the beenh;-The men of the quartermaster corps in their heavy trucks, the infantry moving up behind, and the air force dropping key supplies to foremost units. Here is achievement of the kind that the Germans haven't had even in their heyday in France four years ago.

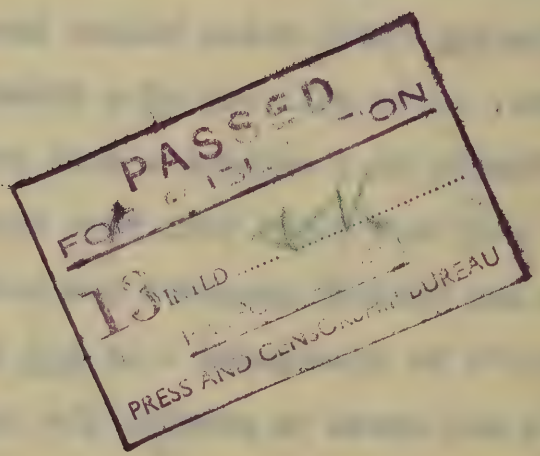
The Germans today are in an entirely different position. They are still fighting bitterly north of Falaise , clinging


PRESS AND CENSORSHIP BUREAU

to positions there to keep the upper jaw of the trap from closing around their Seventh Army. This is logical strategy. But forty miles westward, where the Germans are fighting at the back of the ~~xxx~~ trap between Mortain and Vire it's different. Here today American troops are fighting their way slowly foward. They've recaptured the town of ~~Xxxx~~ Mortain and made advances of up totwo thousand yards at several points. — We've wondered why the Germans should be fighting so stubbornly, and not pulling out - even though the trap was gradually closing forty miles behind them. The answer is that they had no ~~xxxx~~ choice. — To pull out of a threatened position - especially when that position's in a salient - that you've got to be able to disengage your main body and fight with your rearguards. Well, here, it seems, American and British pressure has been too great - the German main force couldn't be disengaged - it had to be flung against threatened points again and again to prevent the whole position from collapsing.

Back in Brittany, which is - at least for the time being - a secondary front. We have now fully occupied Angers - and at Nantes we've crossed the Loire River and pushed on for ten miles. The German Garrisons at Brest, L'Orient, St. Nazaire and St. Malo are still fighting.

Inside Germany Goebbels is still scraping the bottom of his manpower barrell. New measures were announced last night combing out the German postal system - cutting down mail deliveries and other services. And P. Goebbels contributes a piece of unconscious humor too, in announcing that the Ministry of Justice will be the next one to be combed out. This, says Goebbels, will not be noticed by the average citizen.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PRESS AND CENSORSHIP BUREAU

CBS Hottelet 1500 11 August 1944

The American forces on the southern sector - the ones that had reached LeMans have now turned northward. It looks as if General Eisenhower intends to spring a gigantic trap to catch the entire German seventh army in Normandie.

The British x First Army and the Cabadian Second Army are fighting their way down due southward toward Falaise. The American forces, still something like sixty miles away, are pushing north to meet them. It's a race for time now. The Germans must pull out of the ecape route that's still open. If they don't there's enough strength in the Allied bear hug to make sure they won't be able to fight their way out. We can certainly reckon that the Germans will make every attempt to rescue their forcex. Because the German Seventh Army, although weary and scarred from months of battle, is still the best fighting force the enemy has in all of F ance.

But the German position is difficult. They occupy a forty mile deep salient that stretches as far westward as Mortain - and they're still fighting hard, with not a sign that they intend to move out. Just about half of their armor is still committed here.

Farther eastward the German tactics are more understandable. They're doing everything to stop the British and Canadians from narrowing the mouth of the trap around Falaise. They're showing plenty of skill and speed in holding their defense line, and their fighting hard for every hill and every tree covered ridge - but they're being slowly pushed back. This morning the British launched a new offensive and crossed the Orne at still another place. The Canadians haven't met

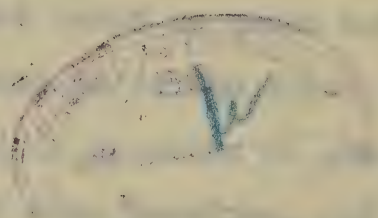
any dramatic
been able to make ~~xxxx~~ forward progress in the last twentyfour hours. The Germans this morning report them about three miles from Falaise. It was announced this morning that the Canadians now have a Polish Armored Division fighting alongside them. These men are largely former cavalrymen who were smashed by superior German force in Poland five years ago. Now, with the most modern equipment, they're getting their chance to fight the enemy on equal terms.

This whole operation bears the hallmark of strength. The Germans report that, in addition to turning northwards ~~xxxx~~ for the pincer movement, the Americans have three or four ~~xxxx~~ divisions moving eastward out of LeMans toward Paris.

There's no doubt that the Battle for Western France will grow in size. The Germans are doing their utmost to bring up reserves by road and rail. ~~xxx xxxx~~ In spite of increased ant aircratf defences, these ~~xxxx~~ movements made excellent targets for our fighter bombers yesterday. But not even the Germans can think that they could match us strength for strength.

Over in Brittany there's no great change in the situation We now have infantry in position north of Brest, preparing to storm the town. The Germans still hold L'Orient and St. Nazaire. There's still some enemy resistance in the naborhood of Angers and Nantes, but the cities are firmly in our hands.

Here in England it's eight weeks today since the German flying bomb began to come over. Since then London has been under continual fire. More than a million people have been evacuated - ~~and certain areas badly damaged. But the military damage has been negligible~~ - and the course of the war has been interfered with hardly at all.



CBS Hottelet 1400 11 August 1944

The American column that had reached LeMans HAS turned northward this morning - headed for Alencon and Falaise. Both American correspondents from the front and enemy sources report that this movement is taking place. -- This would mean that General Eisenhower is making the first move to annihilate the German Army in Normandie. Because between the upper jaw of the trap, where the Canadians and Poles are pushing down toward Falaise, and the lower jaw, where the Americans ARE NOW pushing up, lies the bulk of SS General Hausser's Seventh Army. Although battlescarred and weary from months of fighting this Army is the best fighting force the Germans have in France.

And these German forces - although they're by no means cut off yet - are in none too good a position. They still have an escape gap of sixty miles or more - but they're not in a position from which they can disengage easily. Their left flank, a strong left flank with almost half their available armor - is still fighting hard at Mortain and Vire, at the head of a salient some forty miles away from the way of escape. [And these forces, although it's been said they're fighting a rearguard action, don't seem to be moving away.] This is no reason for rejoicing, in itself, because the enemy is still cunning and he probably has a plan. But with every day that passes, his position becomes more difficult.

This battle now, for western France, will take on even greater proportions in the next few days. (THE CLIMAX IS STILL TO COME.) Already the Germans are reported to be trying to move reinforcements down by train from all

possible points - from Antwerp, Brussels, Sedan, Metz, Strassburg; and our fighter bombers yesterday shot up 150 locomotives and 1000 cars. Von Kluge has greatly increased his antiaircraft artillery west of Paris.//

But our own forces engaged in this operation are also growing - and at a faster pace than the enemy's. A German report this morning says that in addition to moving north from LeMans, for that pincer movement, three or four additional American divisions are pushing eastward toward Paris. The Germans say they were engaged ten or fifteen miles east, near Montfort and Beaufay. There's no confirmation of the report last night that itbwas possible we had gotten as far as Chartres.

The British and Canadians pushing down from the north toward Falaise are fighting hard. The British launched a new attack at eight o'clock this morning and crossed the Orne at a new point to threaten the town of Thury Harcourt. The Canadians are still meeting with fierce German opposition. It was announced this morning that the Canadians now have a Polish Armored Division fighting alongside them. These men are largely former cavalrymen who were smashed by superior German force five years ago. Now, with the most modern equipment, they're getting their chance to fight the enemy on equal terms.

Over in Brittany there is no great change in the situation. We now have infantry in position north of Brest, preparing to storm the town. The Germans still hold L'Orient and ST. Nazaire.

Weather is moderately good over France again today - and this morning large bomber formations were heard going out. There's no late detail available yet.

1139

CBS Hottelet 0045 11 August 1944

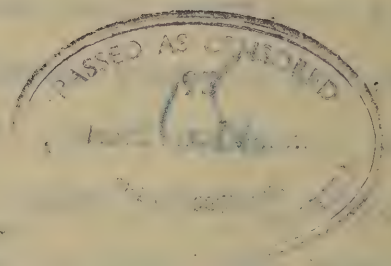
American troops are tonight in Nantes and Angers on the River Loire -- and, pushing eastward from LeMans it's possible that they've gone as far as Chartres. But this last bit of news is not officially confirmed.

The Germans report tonight that General George Patton is in command of the Third American Army that's been doing the fighting in Brittany. Our forces in Brittany are still outside L'Orient and Brest. There's now word from St. Nazaire.

We've never given any estimate of the strength we've poured into France in these past nine weeks. These last ten days of mobile fighting have had columns moving all over the map -- but it's not been made clear how much hard strength backs these columns up, and how more strength continues to pour ashore in France behind our advancing front. Tonight the Germans report that the battle of France is being fought along a 224 mile front by over a million and a half men. This is not far from wrong.

This same reporter says that we already have three to four divisions in the LeMans area. Which would put our thrust eastward from that town on a very solid basis.

All roads seem to lead to Paris tonight -- from LeMans through Chartres the French capital is less than 50 miles away; and down south the main road from Nantes and Angers leads through Tours and Orleans to Paris -- and the Canad. are on the road leading through Falaise to Paris. The pattern of our air offensive is rather revealing again today - with only one exception the road and railroad targets bombed today were to the east, BEHIND Paris. It looks as if we don't want to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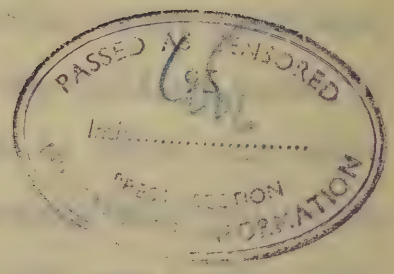
To block his way to our capital.

drop any bombs that would hinder our own progress toward the capital.

There's one more thing ~~xxiii~~ to watch out for, though. ~~Itxmxyxxxiixxxx~~ An entire German army is still fighting up above and behind this lower American column. It may still be that General Eisenhower will decide to turn his column north - to take the Germans in the rear. Because - if he envelops the German Seventh Army and destroys it Paris is his to walk into anyway.

These German forces are still holding fast to their positions forty miles back, between Mortain and Vire. There's no sign of their pulling out. This is no reason for rejoicing in itself, because the enemy is still cunning and he probably has a plan. But with every day that passes, his position here necessarily becomes ~~x~~ more difficult. --- Over eastward below Caen the Canadians are still meeting tough opposition six miles or so above Falaise; but have managed to widen their salient on the east by fighting through to the town of Vimont. And the British, just on their right, are also slugging their way into the new German defense positions.

With more German prisoners of war coming in, and the war in the west demanding more and still more manpower Goebbels inside the Reich today proudly said that his motto was "Scraping the Bottom of the Barrel" to provide it. Newspapers, theaters, dramatic schools are being closed -- industry and domestic labor being combed out once again. -- A German radio broadcast summed it up pretty well tonight: Round the Reich the earth is heaving under the torrent of shells and bombs. The storm is on. It drives toward Germany.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INFORMATION

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CBS Hottelet 0045 11 August 1944

And, when you consider possibilities, you ought to take into account the new Anglo-American airborne Army, whose formation was announced in London today.

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95
PRESS SECTION
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

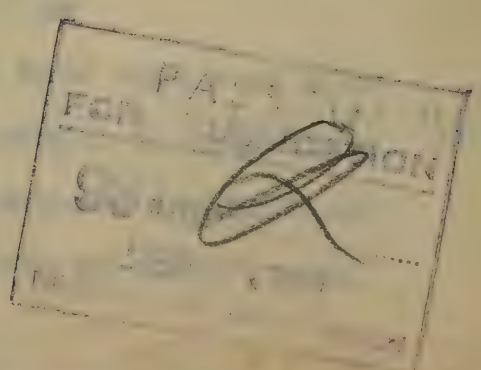
CBS Hottelet 0045 1 0 August 1944

Allied forces in France are still pushing their main spearheads forward tonight - but the Germans are still fighting hard on the east and center of the front.

The Germans say tonight that/American swift motorized troops have driven on through Le Mans and are moving eastward. There are also reports from the front that our troops are in Angers and Nantes -- but none of these reports are confirmed in London.

On the eastern sector, south of Caen, the Canadians have widened their salient, but are still just over six miles from Falaise. A few miles to the west, where the British had fought their way over the Orne river the Germans counterattacked fiercely today. And we're told tonight that the Germans may now be withdrawing. They still have enough force there to cause trouble, though; and the air force attacked one tank concentration north of Falaise this afternoon. ---- The Canadians here have chewed their way through about ten miles of the deep/German defensive zone. There has been at least one report from France tonight that they were through it now, and faced pretty much open country beyond. But we'd better wait for confirmation of that before we count on/any swift movement there now.

From this Canadian salient the front curves westward in a huge bend that comes right back on itself and winds up at LeMans. On a map it looks like a huge trap - but the distance between the Falaise area, where the Canadians are and LeMans, where we are, is 65 miles - which are a lot of miles when



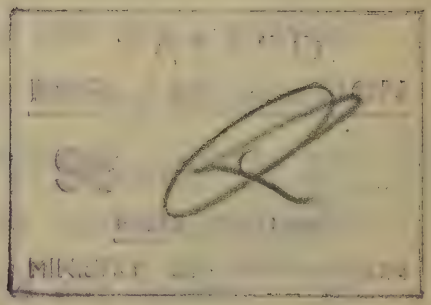
the Germans are fighting as well as they are. The main German resistance is against the upper jaw, south of Caen - and back 40 miles around the tonsils - between Vire and Mortain. They've taken Mortain again and keep on counterattacking. There doesn't seem to be much danger that they'll break through to Avranches, so the reason for the counterattacks is said to be to cover withdrawals elsewhere along the front. As it stands now the jaws of this trap are forty miles closer to Paris than the German forces around Vire and Mortain.

The thing to watch for during the next few days will be whether the lower jaw of the trap starts closing northward toward Falaise or whether it will keep reachingout toward Paris.

In Brittany we are attacking the outer defences of Brest - after the garrison refused to surrender. We are fighting in the town of St. Malo. And in addition - not confirmed - we're reported in Nantes and Angers.

There's one thing worth noticing about the pattern of our air activity today. Much of the bombing was directed against bridges and railroads the east of Paris; as if we were now eager to prevent the enemy from moving into or out of the battlezone through the city.

There's grim news from inside Germany tonight of mass mobilization to fortify the eastern frontier of the Reich. Fortify isn't the right word because men women and children between 15 and 65 are being given picks and shovels to go out and dig ditches and throw up primitive earthworks to stop the Russians. They're expected to do what several German armies apparently can't do — defend the border from East Prussia to Silesia.



CBS Hottelet 9 August 1944 0045

- The Germans are taking heavy punishment on both their flanks in Normandie tonight. At the ~~xxx~~ eastern end, south of Caen, the Canadians are still advancing in the face of bitter German opposition. Bill Downs reported from the front tonight that a staff officer described the German hinge position as bending - although not yet breaking. --- The Canadians have advanced seven thousand yards/ -that's about four miles, in the last 24h and have taken all their initial objectives. Tonight they're reported to be approaching Cintheaux, 9¼ miles southeast of Caen.

The fighting here has been among the bitterest of the whole french campaign -- The Germans are trying to hold on here, because they know that they ~~xxxxxxxxxxx~~ have even less chance of matching the strength we would mass against them along a longer front. After the heavy RAF attack last night, the ~~x~~ American 8th air force sent more than a thousand Fortresses an Liberators out ~~xxxx~~ just afternoon to bomb ahead of the advancing Canadians. You can get an idea of the defensive strength the Germans have pent up in this area from the bombers' report that they flew through flak for 10 or 15 minutes; and that it was as heavy as any they've met over Berlin.

And over on the western flank of the Normandie front - in the vicinity of Vire, it's reported from the front tonight that the enemy is withdrawing - all the while fighting stubborn rearguard actions. (It's been in this area/that the Germans have been counter- extending in a curve roughly from ~~xx~~ Mortain to Vi attacking fiercely during the last two days. Tonight it looks as if the heavy losses they've suffered - especially yesterday's disaster to their tanks - has made them decide/to move out slowly. ~~xxxxxx~~ We are keeping the pressure on.)

There's no further word of the American columns that have been moving eastward of Laval and Mayenne. We don't know exactly how far they've pushed forward - officially the closest we are to Paris is still 110 miles.

In Brittany the latest word is that large fires have been seen burning in L'Orient and St. Malo, indicating that the Germans there are destroying their bases and supplies. Our troops are still closing in on the enemy in these towns and at Brest. The situation at the base of the Peninsula - around Nantes and St. Nazaire and the mouth of the Loire is still not clear. No official word is being released about it because the Germans apparently have only the haziest idea of what's going on. So far we have met no substantial German resistance there.

Our airplanes had a field day over France today. The fighters who took the heavies to Caen went on to strike the heaviest blow of the war against German rail transport. The destroyed or damaged more than a thousand railroad cars, sixty locomotives. And they also hit road transport, oil dumps, flak positions - and anything they spotted.

Inside Germany the German army suffered another blow today. Eight officers - including a field marshal, two lieutenant generals and a major general - were sentenced to death and hanged like common criminals for the part they played in trying to get rid of Hitler and bring Germany peace. This August 8th was indeed another black day in the history of the German army.

CBS Hottelet Admiral Radio 2030 6 Aug 44

The spotlight is shifting to another part of the French battlefront tonight -- to the area around Mayenne, Laval and eastward into which American forces are still pushing.

With the cleaning up of the Brest peninsula now not much more than a tactical exercise, General Bradley is striking out in this new direction. And it's important for several reasons -- for one thing it's another drive. It's not just a few halftracks on reconnaissance patrol. After taking the towns of Laval and Mayenne we're moving on in strength. In London we're not allowed to indicate how strong this force is. But the Germans tonight saythat the force that reached Laval yesterday evening consisted of several tank and infantry divisions, - which may be exaggerating to a certain degree. This new movement shows that our command is quick on its feet and can change the direction of its thrust always to go after the major objective.

And that's another reason why this move eastward can be very important. For one thing it's headed straight for Paris. But, much more immediately, if it continues it can very well outflank the entire German Normandie front. The destruction of the enemy's fighting force is always more important than geographical objectives. If you look at a map you will see that this new push is moving eastward parallel to the coast, about 70 or 80 miles inland. Up to the north, about 35 miles, is the battlefield in Normandie today. Due north is Aunay, northest is Vire, northeast is Caen -- where the German army is fighting savagely to keep a line of with-

drawal open to the rear. -- This column of ours, already reported miles beyond Mayenne does not seem to be meeting much resistance. It's almost as if we were in a tunnel below the battle ield, moving behind it to cut it off. Our thrust seems headed in the general direction of Alencon - which would leave the entire German Seventh Army on our flank. -- And remember, this is happening without weakening the Allied forces that are giving the Germans so tough a time in Normandie right now.

But, if ths new drive does take the center of the stage for the time being we shouldn't ignore what's happening in Brittany and in north Normandie. In Brittany there've been no new developments as far as we know -- Brest hasn't been taken; and it may be the Germans will put up a stiff fight for it. Our combat teams are roaming the peninsula at will, it seems; and it's interesting to note that we're in such a hurry to go about our business elsewhere that we left the town of Vannes in the hands of the French Resistance forces until we got back. --- Another important item from Brittany is that we've taken over the airport at Rennes - which gives us another base, ready made, for forward air operations.

In Normandie, the fighting continues between the Vire and the Orne Rivers. Southwest of Vire - where we've cleared out most of the German salient - and in the town itself, the enemy is still defending himself doggedly and skilfully. Farther northeast he is also fighting hard, but the general tendency is to withdraw to the Orne.

Speaking of Allied strength — we all know that the Americans, British and Canadians have considerable force in France. So far officially we've heard of only two armies, though. Tonight the Germans report that we have a total of four armies in France — and this may be a shrewd guess. The Germans say that on our western flank - in Brittany - is the American Third Army. This has not officially been released. Then come the American first and the British second armies, both which have been announced — and then, on the eastern flank around Caen the Germans say there is the Canadian First Army.

There's no word of any particular developments on the air front in France, but our heavy bombers have struck deep into Germany again. More than a thousand Fortresses and Liberators with almost as many escorting fighters attacked Berlin; and also Kiel and Magdeburg. They struck at engine works, airdromes, oil plants and port installations.

I return you now to Admiral in New York.

CBS Report from London Hottelet and Brown

Hottelet: The difference between an army and a mob is the way an Army holds together and the way the various parts of it go about their special jobs --- each depending on the other to perform properly.

And, just as the human body wouldn't function properly at all if there weren't a nerve network to carry the orders of the brain down to the muscles of the arms and legs -- so an army couldn't function if it weren't for the intricate network that the Signal Corps provides. It's up to these men to see to it that General Eisenhower isn't just talking to himself when he gives an order. Day and night they man the complicated apparatus that connects headquarters with the field.

Here is Major Walter R. Brown of Hollis, Long Island of the Army Signal Corps who's worked day and night since D Day at one very important part of this job.

BROWN: Well, now, when you say that we connect headquarters with the field you're covering a lot of territory with a single sentence.

Hottelet: I know, Brownie, it's a complicated business - and I was just going to ask you to explain what sort of a job it's doing.

BROWN: Well, the basic job is to get the message through. And we use every possible means for doing that job - from dispatch riders to the latest in high speed radio equipment.

BROWN (cont) The Signal Corps has demanded and has gotten the best equipment that America can produce. Some time, after the war, we might be able to say exactly what ~~xxxx

BROWN (cont) makes it absolutely vital that the Supreme Commander have complete control over all his forces all the time. You can"t just turn a division or an Army Corps loose and tell them to get in there and do their best.

Hottelet: You don"t rely on radio alone to do this job, do you?

BROWN: No. In addition to the radio networks there are now thousands of miles of wire and cable connecting the various headquarters and command posts.

Hottelet: Yes, I"ve seen them festooned along the roads in Normandie - budnles of wire sometimes as thick as your leg. And, in the early days, when it was first put up - the signalmen had to do their work on top of their poles like sitting ducks under sniper fire.

BROWN: And apart from radio and wire there are lots of other ways of getting the word back - dispatch riders, lights, panels and even animals.

But there"s one part of the job I want to mention specifically.

Hottelet: What"s that?

BROWN: It"s getting the news of what"s going on in the field back to the people at home. We take the view that this war isn"t just a soldier"s game. We"re a citizen army and if we didn"t have you in America behind us we wouldn"t be able to fight -- and

BROWN (cont) ... as a matter of fact, it probably wouldn't be worth fighting.

Hottelet: Tell us what you do to get the news back.

BROWN: There are over two hundred fifty war correspondents over in France right now. Most of them send news back to their papers or to the news agencies by highspeed radio. Lots of this goes over/the British and American Signal Corps facilities. And the commercial circuits that are in use from France are coordinated by us. We move, or help move, about 120,000 words a day from France to the newspapers of the world.

And then, of course, on top of that are the broadcasters. Columbia's Larry Lesueur and Bill Downs and Charlie Shaw -- and the boys of your competition - John Macvane and Goerge Hicks and Dave Anderson -- all of them broadcast back to the States direct from the fronts over Allied Signal Corps transmitters.

But that's not all -- we handle radio pictures too. A lot of the pictures you see in your newspapers are radioed back over the Signal Corps Transmitter in London.

So you see - we've come a long way since the boys fighting the indians sent messages back with smoke and a blanket.

CBS Report from London 5 August 1944 2245 Hottelet & Brown

Hottelet: There"s plenty of good reason why we should try to do - and on a wider scale - what Al Bell and his paratroopers did to that German command post.

You"ve already read of fighter bombers and rocket carrying fighters blast German headquarters buildings. And much of our offensive effort is directed toward paralyzing the enemy by hitting his brain and nerve centers - his headquarters and his communications.

++++++++++++

That was Major Walter R. Brown, of Hollis, Long Island.

You have heard Bill Shadel and Dick Hottelet Reporting from London. We return you now to CBS in New York.

645

1070

CBS Hottelet 1400 5 August 1944

Allied troops this morning are moving ahead from one end of the Normandie front to the other. Most rapid progress is still being made in Brittany. Here American armored combat teams have been fanning out from Rennes and are way beyond it. -- One column is moving straight out to the west, along the backbone of the ~~xxxxx~~ peninsula, the main highway to Brest. It's this force that's made the greatest progress ~~that~~ so far revealed by Supreme Head uarters ~~[illegible]~~ It has reached the area of Loudeac - fifty miles due west of Rennes.

Apparently as this force moves along it's sending out branches to the south, headed for subsidiary objectives. One of these columns has reached the area of Mouron on the highway to Vannes on the south coast.

There is no word that our forces have met any organized German opposition. Our advance seems to be limited only by the flow of our supporting supplies - which is functioning excellently - and by the tactical considerations of the broad strategic plan. Where individual German town and village garrisons put up resistance, or where we meet a defended road block, we don't hold up the entire column while we beat down the obstacle. This part of France has many good roads, and we take advantage of them to move around the enemy force and clean it up at our leisure.

Meanwhile the communique this morning admits our advance southward and southeastward from Rennes as far as Chateubriant and Derval - about thirty miles away. ~~Thirty~~ If this represented the limit of our advance here it would mean ~~[illegible]~~ that the germans still have a 30 or 40 mile escape gap out of the Brest peninsula including one main railroad line. BUT, I think we can take it for granted that General Bradley would not have sent powerful forces pushing westward out along the peninsula if there were still such an escape route open o

to the enemy
/ along its southern shore. It's still a case of the communique lagging behind our foremost spearheads.

The forces that had been pushing southward from Avranches have also been making progress - this morning our forward troops are already beyond Fougeres. The Germans report that these American forces stabbing deep into Brittany consist of six armored and motorized infantry divisions. And it's not insignificant that the Germans are not even making any promises that they'll be able to cope with the situation. The most they've said so far is that "the next few days should show whether the bold American breakthrough will be followed by an equally bold German counterattack." Which is pretty noncommittal enough.

The basic cause for the terrible German strategic position in this corner of France is that we have broken into the German defense army and have begun to separate it into two distinct forces, neither of which can any longer come to the assistance of the other. If you take a line running straight southward from Cherbourg through Avranches as a dividing line you can see that on one side of it we are sweeping ahead to the west engulfing the German Brittany defense force; and on the other side of it we are pushing on to the east - steadily forcing the German Normandy defense army farther back.

This morning, on the southernmost flank of this Normandie front American forces have reached the town of Barenton and have captured a large portion of the main German ammunition dump in the Forest of St. Sever.

And all along the front that stretches northeastward in a curve from here to the Caen area, except for a few defensive breakwaters, the enemy is withdrawing. British troops have entered Villers Bocage. And it

looks as if the Germans are clearing the whole area between the Odon and the Orne rivers. The towns of Esquay and Evrecy have been cleared of Germans. The hills 112 and 113 are in British hands again. Our allies have reached the area of Vacognes and Amaye sur Odon and captured the village of Ondefontaine. It may be that the Germans will try to establish a new defence line behind the Orne River.

But it's emphasized this morning that the enemy is withdrawing and not retreating. Farther south, between Villers Bocage and Vire he is carrying out numerous counterattacks - and is still grimly holding to the town o Aunay. There is no indication that we still haven't got hard fighting ahead of us in this sector.

There's no word of air activity this morning, over the battle front. But the Germans report heavy bomber formations over north and central Germany.

Inside Germany the revelation last night that high army officers would be put on trial for being involved in the plot to kill Hitler, has caused a sensation. And the establishment of a tribunal to find still more members of the officers corps who took part in it can not have quieted the atmosphere of crisis in Germany. It reveals how widespread the roots of the conspiracy are; and it takes experienced, professional officers out of the army at a time when Goebbels is carrying out the strictest measures all over Germany to find more men - any kind of men - to send to the front or to the factory.

It's a far cry this weekend from Germany to England. Here everyone who can is preparing to get away for the August Bank Holiday on Monday. This is a holiday that was invented by some kind Government years and years back because it felt that the stretch between Whitsun and Christmas was too long to go without a holiday.

CBS Hottelet 1600 4 August 1944

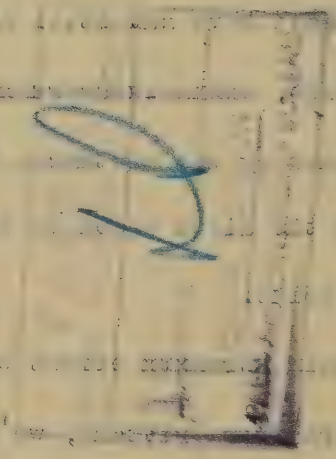
In Brittany American forces are pouring southward to Nantes and St. Nazaire. The Brest Peninsula is cut off to all practical intents and purposes. There is no official news this morning - either from our side or from the enemy - as to precisely where our forward spearheads are. The most we're allowed to say from London is that we are 20 miles southwest of Rennes. And that is pretty far behind actual events. Both the Allied and the german High Commands are very much afraid that something they say might help the enemy. And that pretty well characterizes the situation as completely fluid - with strong fast forces pushing on into comparatively empty space.

But there are at least two concrete facts that emerge this morning. For one thing our spearheads have still not met any effective German opposition in Brittany; and also, the strength of these racing columns is not being weakened by the distances they've covered. The supply organization keeps pumping the lifes blood of fuel and food, ammunition and supplies up to the foremost point.

Although our main effort seems at the moment to be aimed westward and southwestward into Brittany, we're also prying and probing due southward and southeastward from our starting point at Avranches. There's been considerable activity by our reconnaissance patrols in the triangle between Avranches, Rennes and Mortain.

The driving power of our advance is admitted by a German reporter this morning who says that our driving power in the last 24 hours has been even greater than it was the day before. He said that powerful air support had enabled our troops to widen and deepen the breach we had made in the Rennes - Dinan areas.

It's this strength that will be providing us some extremely good news from Brittany, I soon.

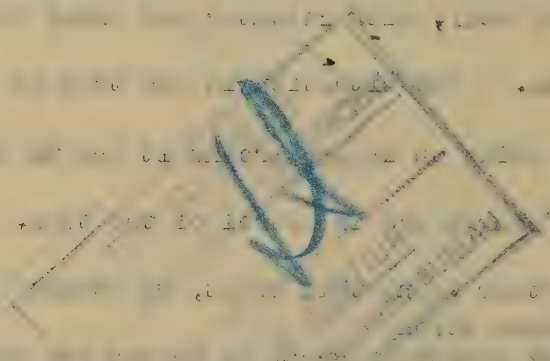


From this point on to the north and east, though, we still are fighting a German army. American forces have pushed eastward from Avranches and southward from Torigny and are pretty well clearing the German salient that had dented our line. But there is no particularly bitter fighting going on there because the Germans are pulling out, skilfully and in good order. That's why, for one thing, we haven't taken many prisoners there. - The German divisions, including two Panzer Divisions, that were withdrawn here will probably try to establish a line farther to the east.

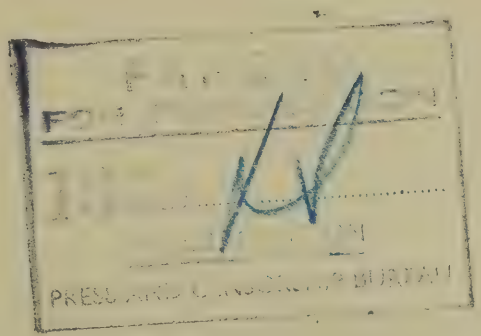
It's along the line northeastward from Vire that the Germans seem to have decided to stop retreating for a while. They are standing there and fighting - fighting well, with infantry and armor reinforcements brought in from the Caen area. The situation in the town of Vire is already unclear. Bitter fighting is going on in and around it and we don't know whether the British or the Germans are in cotrol of the town.

And farther along this front, up toward Villers Bocage, the Germans last night launched strong counterattacks. Up around the town of Aunay they succeeded inm pushing the British back 2,000 yards from the high ground north and northwest of Aunay. And up around Villers-Bocage itself the British were able to make no progress. But, down further, around Beny Bocage the news has just come in that the British and Americans, fighting together, have broken the German counterattack there and taken a point three miles east of the town.

As the battle proceeds...pick up from 1400.....



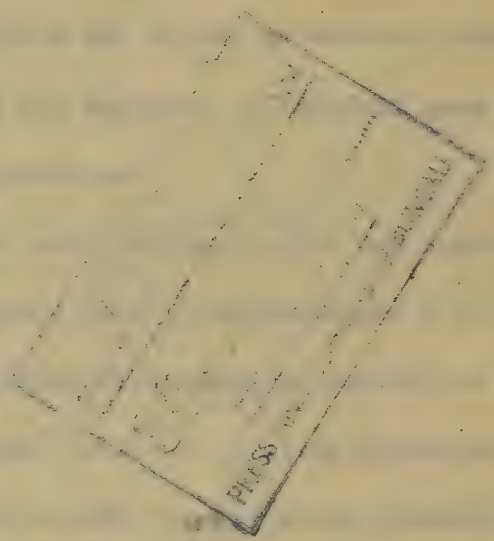
Inside Germany news comes this morning that the Nazis are doing their utmost to comb out more men for the fighting front. A decree published this morning says that all remaining manpower reserves will be mobilized for the army and for the armaments industry. The small shopkeeper is going to be the first one hard hit under this new measure. Many more stores are to be closed down and the remainder made to work hard enough to cover the deficit. It's safe to say that the untrained, civilian manpower Goebbels gets from this combout won't make any difference any more in this war.



CBS Hottelet 1400 4 August 1944

The German left flank in western France - whatever is left of it - is still being pushed back this morning. In Brittany the flowing American forces are still ~~pushing~~ southward to Nantes and St. Nazaire. Already the Brest Peninsula is cut off ~~xx~~ to all practical intents and purposes. ~~xxxx~~ we don't know exactly what the relation of our troops is to the southern coast, and if we did know we wouldn't be able to say, because of the censorship that's been clamped down on specific distances and places. Events are still way ahead of the communiques.

~~xxxx



it should not be very long before it's committed to battle on ~~it~~ the soil of ~~F~~rance with its modern American equipment.

~~The weather~~

The weather over the French battle front is good today, and we should be able to take full advantage of our air power. Already the Germans report large heavy bomber formations over northern and central Germany.

Here's one small item to go with the rest of the day's good news -- the London papers this morning print the glad tidings that Scotland will be allowed to resume the distilling of whisky. -- But don't drink up your reserves on that -- the scotch won't be available for a couple of years in any case.

CBS Hottelet 0045 4 August 1944

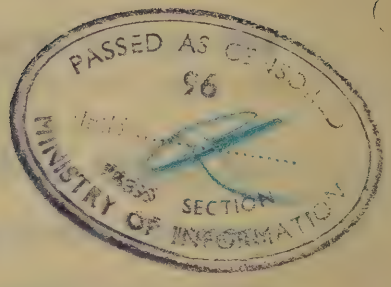
There's a strategic picture emerging from all the Reports out of Normandy tonight. It's a picture of great opportunity for us and trouble for the Germans.

On the western end of the front American armored columns are racing to cut the Brest peninsula off completely. Already the harbor of St. Malo has fallen to us like a ripe plum. And A report tonight says that we're well on the way to Nantes and St. Nazaire. There's no confirmation of this available in London, but London has kept the news of our advance into Brittany in tight rein, to prevent the Germans from benefiting from the information. We had troops in Rennes 36 hours before we announced its capture.

We don't know how many men the Germans have out on the peninsula - but a good estimate is about sixty thousand, including naval forces and garrison troops.

These men are lost now, and the German command seems to have recognized as much. It can do nothing about it. Its main forces are tied up elsewhere on the Normandie front -- and they are in retreat farther away, eastward.

Between Vire and Mortain, where they had fought so hard in the deep salient around Tessy, Percy and Villedieu the Germans are withdrawing fairly rapidly. Farther up the line, between Vire and Villers Bocage, German resistance has stiffened and the British forces fighting there have made only small gains in the last twelve hours. Over on our left flank, in the Caen area, there's been no change at all - and it appears that the enemy wants to hold this as an anchor point while he withdraws the rest of his forces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MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

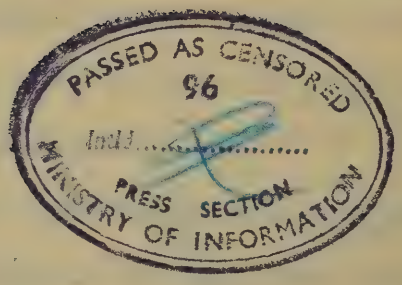
and tries to form a new line .

The important part about the development in Normandie is that our success is not being won from a demoralized enemy. The Germans are still fighting skilfully - and will presumably continue to do so. We're winning because we're outfighting them - and because we're swamping them with far superior strength. That's why ------/There will be dramatic news from Normandy in the next few days.

But Normandy is only one of the elements in a still greater strategic picture of German defeat. According to very reliable reports the next blow to the Germans will come from Finland. It's expected here that Finland will take steps to get out of the war inside the next few days. Marshal Mannerheim was accepted by the Russians for just this purpose; and it's been fixed that the liberal leaders Vuori and Paasikivi will become Premier and F'n Min. in the new government. Staff talks with the Russians are reported/already in progress to protect the Finns from German reprisals.

And confirmation is received in London that the Bulgarians are also deep in peace negotiations with Britain and America. But there may be no immediate action here.

While the Germans are still straining to cope with the catastrophe on the Russian front, there are more signs of crisis at home. Tonight the Nazis offered a reward for the arrest of a man named Nebe, a high officer in the Secret Police. He disappeared just after the General's putsch. ---- The Nazis are fighting for their lives tonight on more than military battlefields.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PRESS SECTION
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

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CBS Hottelet 3 August 1944 1500

The German High Command communique this afternoon gives us the first broad indication of the path the American troops are following into Brittany. It says that our armoured spearheads yesterday pushed toward Rennes and Dinan. If this is true -- and there's no reason to suppose it isn't -- it means that General Bradley is moving ahead in two main columns. The one toward Rennes would be straight southward from Pontorson, while the thrust toward Dinan would mean that another column is pushing due westward parallel with the shoreline.

The German communique goes on to claim that our forces were repelled at both Rennes and Dinan, implying that we've at least reached both places. This would mean that we've pushed on some 26 miles west of Pontorson and about thirty miles south.

This is a considerable admission for the Germans to make -- but the chances are it doesn't still keep pace with the truth. We'll probably hear soon of the capture of Rennes. At Army headquarters in France and at Supreme Headquarters here in England a tight censorship is still being kept over specific news of our progress. We don't want to give the Germans any information as to how far we've gone or where we're headed. The reason for this is that the Germans must be making every attempt now to scrape a force together to stem our advance. There's no point in telling them where they should assemble or where they'd have a chance to strike. So the Allied communique still says only that the advance beyond Pontorson continues.

One thing that's making the German situation difficult here -- and of course also in the other sectors, is the constant strafing by our fighters and fighter bombers. There's no target too

small for them. Bridges, occasional vehicles on the road, ammunition and fuel dumps are bombed whenever they're spotted. Ed Murrow went out with the Marauders yesterday to bomb an ammunition dump south of Avranches. He got a good birds eye view of the fastmoving front there - and said that the supplies moving in behind our advancin columns are terrific.

From Avranches eastward the front isn't moving anywhere nearly as fast. But an American column pushing still farther inland from Brecey has advanced five miles to take the little village of Les Mesnil Adelee. It looks as if this push is tied up with the British drive southward through Vire. Because in between these two advancing arms, fighting courageously in a large bend between the Villedieu & Tessy sector are the remains of two German Panzer Divisions and two infantry divisions. There are now only thirteen miles between the British and American spearheads moving to cut them off altogether. Whether or not they will be cut off depends on their ability to hold the jaws of the trap apart while they fight their way out.

British troops are still fighting in the town of Vire, but reconnaissance elements have pushed on farther south. The British are still pushing ahead in three columns, but they're meeting stiffer opposition than they've had since their push started. The main weight of their pressure, apart from the drive southward through Vire, seems to have shifted eastward. Here one combat team is headed for Vassy and another one, up north a bit, is moving to encircle Villers Bocage. South of that town one British force is within a mile of the village of Aunay.

It's along this front, roughly between Vire and Villers-Bocage that the Germans seem to be making a determined attempt to threaten the British flank. It's reported from the front this morning that fifty German tanks and supporting infantry counterattacked this morning. Their objectives were the important river crossings of the Souleuvre river, over which the British had raced down from Caumont to Vire. There's no late word about how the battle is going -- but there's no indication that it's a serious threat.

From Villers Bocage eastward, through the Caen area, the front remains static; and although there have been reports of the germans moving forces out of this area to throw in farther west, they don't seem to have been large enough to affect the situation.

London 4 min Sunday

CBS Hottelet 1400 3 August 1944

The American forces on the western end of the Normandie front are still streaming into Brittany. Headquarters is still not revealing the progress they've made or the course they're follwing, because the Germans apparently don't know what's going on there. So far there's no sign that our troops have met any German resistance worth mentioning.

This mornings communique says laconically that our advance beyond Pontorson continues. But the words beyond Pontorson cover a multitude of miles. We have no official word, of course, but there is reason to believe that we ~~are already in the city~~ 'll SOON HEAR OF THE CAPTURE of Rennes. There is no point in speculating what the further objectives of General Bradley's flying columns are -- but it won't be many days before we get some dramatic news from this part of the front.

The Germans sum up conditions there well enough this morning. A war correspondent at Fieldmarshal Kluge's headquaretrs writes this morning that the German situation on the western sector of the Normandie front is critical.

The censorship that's clamped down on news from the entire area west and south of Pontorson has prevented our getting a picture of the strength the American army is throwing in there. We're not just stretching out feelers -we're moving in with all the furniture. Ed Murrow flew over the area south of Avranches yesterday in a Marauder to bomb a German ammunition dump, and he described the roads behind the American front as writhing with transport trucks. Behind the German lines Murrow said he didn't see a vehicle on the road.

Driving Eastward from Avranches and Brecey our forces have taken the little village of Les Mesnil Au Adelee. It's plain that this push is strategically tied up with the British drive southward through Vire. Because in between, in a large bend, are the remains of two German Panzer Divisions and two Infantry Divisions that have been fighting in the Tessy, Percy, Villedieu sectors.

The position of these German forces in the salient is deteriorating. There are now only thirteen miles between the American and British spearheads moving to cut them off altogether. But the Germans are still fighting stubbornly, and their obvious intention is to keep the jaws of our trap apart long enough to pull out when they can hold on no longer.

This sort of picture applies to too portion of the front that stretches northeastward to Villers-Bocage. Whereas as on the extreme western end of the front the strategy is the cruiser strategy of mobile warfare, on this portion of the front where there are Germans to stand and fight General Bradley and General Dempsey are keeping to the most time-honored rule of warfare. It is their intention to meet the enemy wherever he is, and to destroy him. They will attempt to do this in frontal combat and by encirclement. This sort of strategy does not involve swift movement over large areas; and that's why you probably won't be hearing of spectacular advances here. But the job being done between Les Mesnil and Villers Bocage (and over to Caen) is as important as any on the Normandie front.

British troops are still fighting in the town of Vire, but reconnaissance elements have pushed on farther south. The Brit-

are still pushing ahead in three general columns. But the main weight of their pressure, apart from this one push southward from Vire, seems to have shifted eastward. Here one combat team is driving on toward St Vassy, and another is moving to encircle Villers-Bocage. South of that town one British force is within a mile of the village of Aunay.

It's along this front, roughly between Vire and Villers Bocage that the Germans seem to be making a determined attempt to threaten the British flank. It's reported from the front this morning that fifty German tanks and supporting infantry counterattacked this morning. There objectives were the important river crossings of the Souleuvre river over which the British had raced down from Caumont to Vire. There is no late word about how the battle is going.

From Villers Bocage eastward, through the Caen area, the front remains static; and although there have been reports of the Germans moving forces out of this area to throw in farther west, they don't seem to be large enough to affect the situation.

CBS Hottelet 0045 3 August 1944

A great war of movement is being fought on the western flank of the Normandie front tonight. There is no point any longer west of Villor Bocage, where we can speak of a line. Everywhere in this area American and British forces are pushing on, and the enemy is being killed, captured or thrown back. The German position is disintegrating.

On the ~~easterm~~ westernmost portion of this front American armored combat teams have moved on beyond ~~Rennes~~ Pontorson and are driving toward Rennes. We can't give you any details at all of this drive - either the exact route our spearheads are travelling or the ~~distance~~ distance they've gone. A tight censorship has clamped down on the whole area southwest of Avranches. Even the big map in the SHAEF briefing ~~r~~ room tonight ~~is~~ had just a blank on this part.

The reason for this is that we are moving so fast, and so boldly that the Germans are probably confused - they probably don't know where or how to try to stop us. Tonight - and this is not being overenthusiastic - it looks as if there were a good chance of Rennes falling tomorrow.

Over to the east and northeast of Avranches the pursuit is not quite so~~o~~ headlong - but even here, ~~the~~ along the curve that runs roughly through the sectors of Villedieu, Percy and Tessy, the Germans are trying to disengage. Larry Lesueur reported tonight that they're trying to pull out ~~of~~ toward Vire. -- But so swiftly have events moved here that if they do the Germans will find themselves withdrawing into the waiting arms of a British armored column that is now fighting inside Vire.

For the last few days the Germans had been fighting bitterly for the towns of Tessy, Percy and Villedieu. We took them one after the other. And tonight the Germans find themselves in a salient out of which they must withdraw if they want to avoid complete encirclement. Around to their left the American forces are pushing against them from Avranches, around to their right the British are pushing aginst them at Vire - and all the way in between our forces are keeping the pressure on, constantly seeking out weak points, never giving a moments rest.

The Germans will try to withdraw what's left of the strong armored and infantry forces they had in there. But the question they face is - withdraw to where? The enemy does not at this moment have any better prospects behind the line than he has in it - except the prospect of unlimited retreat. The Germans don't seem to have any reserves available to plug the gap. They have only one Panzer Division left in reserve anywhere in France - which isn't enough to cope with the steadily expanding front.

In the area south of Caumont the British have also broken through the German thrust. Tonight they're fighting in Vire, and they have a corridor there that stretches six miles eastward to Chenedolle. And farther northeast a late report tonight says that the British have taken Aunay in a bid to outflank Viller Bocage.

The enemy is not yet in a state of disorganized retreat but the Battle in Normandie tonight is to destroy his armies as a fighting force. And barring bad luck it looks as if we might succeed.

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CBS Hottelet 2 August 1944 1500

The American forces pushing south from Avranches are still on the move this morning; and the best part of the news is that there's no sign yet of them stopping, or even slowing down.

The latest word is that they've turned southwestward now, out of the Cherbourg peninsula altogether, and into Brittany. Here they've reached the town of Pontorson, 13 miles southwest of Avranches.

And over in the center of the now 120 mile Normandie front the British have pushed on two miles southeastward from Beny Bocage and are reported this morning to have entered the village of Beaulieu only about five and a half miles from the key road junction of Vire.

The Germans admit this morning that things are going badly for them. A Berlin news dispatch reports Allied tanks deep in the German rear; with confused fighting in several sectors of the front.

The most impotrant part of the American push south of Avranches is the power that remains behind it. There doesn't seem to be anything rubbery about our striking arm - to make it thinner the farther it stretches. The logistical problems we're overcoming are enormous. Every mile the spearheads advance means two miles more for the supply trucks, up and back. The story of this offensive won't be complete until the men who've driven the supply trucks day and night through blinding dust and sniper fire tell their part of it.

These men haven't got just that one spearhead to supply.

There are several, because our forces have fanned out beyond Avranches, probing deeper and deeper into the German positions. And we're moving on eastward from Brecey, southeastward through Montjothiers and Vezins and southward through Pontabault and Ducey as well as westward through Pontorson.

It's this column that might bring the most dramatic developments. Because, if General Bradley wants to swing southwestward again, the city of Rennes is 34 miles away. This city is the key to the Brest Peninsula. And between us and it, the Germans don't seem to have many troops. Their main defensive hope there seems to be the thickly wooded area to the northeast.

The American forces are having tougher going in the Tessy area, just west of the Vire River. The Germans are still fighting hard here, and we've had to blast our way back into Tessy and Percy and Villedieu. --- But if it's a question of paying a price, the cost to the Germans of this last week of fighting has been much higher than our own losses. The figure of German prisoners taken by our troops is already around 20,000 and climbing steadily as our infantry goes on mopping up.

Here in London we're waiting for Prime Minister Churchill to give the House of Commons a review of the war this afternoon. We're not looking forward to any surprises, but Mr. Churchill should be able to weave tumbling political and military events of the last couple of weeks into a cohesive pattern. He'll certainly have something to say about the Generals' putsch in Germany; and he may be able to shed some light on the significance of the change of Govern-

ment in Finland.

Mr. Churchill will certainly have something to say about Turkey's breach of political and economic relations with Germany. He may even make it sound very cordial - to make up for his very chilly treatment of Turkey in his last speech. -- But we doubt here whether he will make it sound like an event of earthshaking importance. --- The reaction to the Turkish action in London has been mainly one of -- well, almost boredom. It's been promised and withdrawn so many times that people here are glad to have it out of the way. But noone thinks it will affect the war very much - or, for that matter, Turkey's position in the peace.

CBS Hottelet 2 August 1944 1400

The American forces pushing south from Avranches are still on the move this morning; and the best part of the news is that there's no sign yet of them stopping or even slowing down anywhere.

The latest word is that they've turned southwestward now, out of the Cherbourg peninsula altogether, and into Brittany. Here they've reached the town of Pontorson, 13miles southwest of Avranches.

That is the limit as far as we know it in London; but with news pouring in from the front the way it has these last 48 hours we're probably behind the actual events.

The most important part of this push south of Avranches is that we seem to have done it with considerable strength. There's more than just one armored combat team racing along a road. Our forces have fanned out deeper and deeper beyond Avranches and are pushing on eastward from Brecey, southeastward through Montgothiers and Vezins, southward through Pontabault and Ducey and then westward through Pontorson.

This last column might bring us the most dramatic news. If it continues to push westward along the coast it won't be very long before it reaches the Port of St. Malo. But if General Bradley decides to swing southwestward, the city of Rennes which controls all the communications lines into the Breton Peninsula is only 34 miles away. --- And its a sign of the optimism prevailing in London to have people speak of this distance now as only 34 miles.

Farther to the east and the American

There's no sign that the Germans could put up any determined resistance here. The terrain is heavily wooded part of the way, but the Germans don't seem to have the troops there. The main enemy forces in France are tied up tightly farther east, and up in the Channel area.

That's why the fighting has been much fiercer and the going slower on the rest of the Normandie front. Even so, this morning's communique reports that we've thrown the Germans out of the towns of Tessy sur Vire and Percy, and that we are steadily breaking down the enemy's resistance inside the town of Villedieu. The fighting continues in this entire German salient.

And along, across the river Vire, still farther to the eastward where British and American troops have been pushing southward from Torigny and Caumont there's no news of any dramatic advance this morning. But the British bridgehead south of the Souleuvre River at Beny Bocage has been widened and deepened.

At the extreme eastern end of the front, in the Caen area, Canadian troops have tried three times in the last 24 hours to recapture the town of Tilly la Campagne. German tank reinforcements beat them back. -- But even if they haven't reached their geographical objectives there's no doubt that their attacks have helped tie down German forces badly needed elsewhere.

insert CBS Hottelet 1400 2 August 1944

The logistical problems that we've had to solve to keep our spearheads supplied have been enormous. Every mile they advance is two miles for the supply trucks,up and back. There's a report this morning from an enemy source, that we're using barges and landing craft along the shore to carry supplies. -- The story of this offensive won't be complete until the men who've driven the supply trucks day and night through blinding dust and snipers fire tell their part of it.

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Here in London we're waiting for Prime Minister Churchill to give the House of Commons a review of the war this afternoon. There's no indication that he'll make any new disclosures in his speech -- but with political events moving now as rapidly as the military, Mr. Churchill will certainly try to tie the loose ends together. -- What we're waiting for particularly is for official word of the significance of the German General's putsch; and of the importance of the government changes in Finland. --- As far as Turkey is concerned, noone seems to think that particularly important.,

CBS Hottelet 1500 1 August 1944

News from Normandie this morning is of action -- and of progress-all along the Normandie front. American troops are advancing south of Avranches. American and British troops together are advancing southward from Torigny and Caumont. And over on the east fighting seems to have flared up again in the area around Caen.

On the westernmost end of this winding, moving front American forces have penetrated five miles beyond the town of Avranches, and are reported to have crossed the Selune River. This river was the last German natural defense line at the base of the Cherbourg peninsula. We're reported to have crossed it at two points at the villages of Ducey and Pontaubault.

The front curves sharply northeastward from Avranches., and American forces are pressing along toward the road that runs between Avranches and Percy. It's up along this road, in the area north of Villedieu, and farther on toward Percy and Tessy le Vire that the Germans are fighting desperately to stop us.

The front moves in a great curve here, with us and the Germans outflanking one another. If they were able to bring more strength into this forward area of theirs they might be able to try to cut off the American column that's pushed on through Avranches. On the other hand they themselves stand in danger of being cut off from both sides - by the Americans on the west and by the combined British and American forces on the east. And I think we can say without undue optimism that the Germans, although they're fighting gallantly, are in a pretty tough spot.

Just how tough this spot is - and the diminishing strength the germans have to get out of it - are partly revealed by the announcement this morning that American forces alone had taken 6,000 prisoners in the 24 hours up to about midnight. More are coming in all the time as German pockets are cleaned out behind the American lines. -- And there's no indication that our drive southward has lost any of its strength.

But the Germans haven't stopped fighting eaither. By counterattacking fiercely with tanks and infantry they forced us out of the town of Tessy. And they still hold the key points of Percy and Villedieu. -- But while they're trying hard here to keep a hard fist in the Allied front, British and American forces are beginning to outflank them from the east also.

This morning British forces are seven miles from the town of Vire - the road hub for supplies to the germans' Tessy salient. Pushing their way across difficult country the British have advanced ten miles southward from Caumont since Sunday; and on the way down - just west of the Forest of L'Eveque, they've joined hands with the American forces that took TOrigny. It'll be worth keeping an eye on this combined drive southward during the next couple of days.

Over on the eastern end of the Normandie front, which had been quiet recently, the Canadians went forward in a night attack, and by early this morning had recaptured the village of Tilly la Campagne, four miles south of Caen. -- And the germans this morning report heavy British artillery fire at several points in this Orne sector, and also an attempt to recapture Hill 112.

The air news from Normandie doesn't keep pace with the good word from the ground this morning. The weather is bad again today, and fog and low clouds are interfering with our operations.

By the way, there's no confirmation in London for the rumor that Rommel has been badly wounded or even killed. The Germans, for their part, took great pains this morning to deny it. They say Rommel's in perfect health.

Inside Germany Goebbels' propaganda machine is swinging into high gear to convince the German people that there's still some point to going on with the war. Yesterday Goering, Keitel and Doenitz held funeral orations for Air Force General Korten, who was killed by the bomb intended for Hitler. The orations were intended to prove that the alleged superior quality of the German war machine enabled it to hold its own even in the face of enormous enemy superiority. The place where the ceremony was held was the memorial for the Battle of Tannenberg - where Hindenburg and Ludendorff had beaten the Russians in 1914. And while they were speaking the Russian advance against East Prussia was continuing.

So this morning the Nazis have plastered their newspapers with stories that the Allies must win the war by October -- and that Prime Minister Churchill had ordered Montgomery to win the war within a few weeks ---- the alternative presumably being some miraculous German comeback. @@@@@@@@@ These stories are pretty feeble - but if the Germans want a true one we can tell them now that General Montgomery has told his troops they'd be in Berlin by Christmas, and he told them that with the fullconsent of the Prime Minister.

CBS Hottelet 1400 1 August 1944

There is action this morning along the entire Normandie front, from below Avranches all the way east to the Caen area.

On the westernmost end of this winding, moving front, American forces were this morning reported to have penetrated beyond the town of Avranches, and to have crossed the Selune River. This river is the last natural German defense line at the base of the Cherbourg peninsula. We are reported to have crossed it at two points - the villages of Ducey and Pontabault. --- This news is not officially confirmed yet, though.

The front curves sharply northeastward from Avranches, and American forces are pressing toward the road that runs between Avranches and Percy. It's up along this road, in the area north of Villedieu, and farther on toward Percy and Tessy le Vire that the Germans are fighting desperately to stop us.

The front moves in a great curve here, with us and the Germans outflanking one another. If they could bring enough strength into this forward area of theirs they might be able to try to cut off the American column that pushed on through Avranches. On the other hand they themselves stand in danger of being cut off on both sides - by the Americans on the west and by the combined British and American forces on the east. And I think we can say without any undue optimism that the Germans - although they're fighting gallantly - are in a much worse position than we are.

But, it's easy enough to look at a map and talk about towns and positions being outflanked. Ultimately the situation is

determined by the position on the ground. And here the position is that the German ~~have~~ -- by counterattacking fiercely with tanks and infantry - have forced us out of Tessy; and that they still hold Percy and Villedieu. They are not going to be forced out of these important points without a fight.

But just to the east of this German fist in our lines, British and American troops are pushing down the right bank of the Vire river, and southwards from Caumont.

~~xxx~~ Yesterday and last night the British advanced 7,000 yards in the ~~xx~~ Caumont sector. And an armored combat column has pushed across the Souleuvre River two miles west of Beny le Bocage. This means that the British have pushed down ten miles from Caumont since Sunday, and that they've begun to threaten the town of Vire; which is the road hub for the German communications into their Tessy salient. -- And these forces moving south are not just a column or two - their occupying forces, British and American. Because, it's in the area between Torigny and the Forest of ~~xxx~~ L'Eveque that General Dempsey's British Second Army has joined up with American troops. -- ~~xxx~~ The British are doing very well in difficult country. ~~x~~ They seem to be in even thicker hedgerwo country than we are, and the difficult observation has ~~xx~~ made it a nightmare for their artillery.

Over on the eastern end of the Normandie front, which has been quiet for some time now, the Canadians went forward in a night attack, and by early this morning had recaptured the village of Tilly la Campagne, four miles south of Caen.

It looks, too as if that whole Orne sector might see some heavier fighting again. The Germans report this morning that the British have been making some attempts to recapture hill ~~xxx~~ 112, that they lost ten days ago.

It would be all to our advantage to spread our offensive all along the Normandie front. The Germans are having enough trouble right now in trying to hold off two of our advancing columns. It would be even worse for them if they had still another offensive to cope with.